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DODDS bus security goes high-tech

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Thirst to reach Victory Lane drying up in NASCAR

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Tony Stewart

Volume 63, No. 126 © EPSS 2004 J

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2004

50¢

Aide says Shiite cleric told militia to hand over shrine

Fighting in Sadr City kills at least 10, injures 20 Page 6



A floor show

Patterson is first U.S. woman to win gymnastics all-around in 20 years

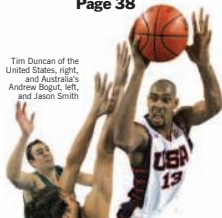
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Starting to click

U.S. men regain some confidence after rallying to beat Australia

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Tim Duncan of the United States, right, and Australia's Andrew Bogut, left, and Jason Smith



Special delivery



By J. FLANNIGAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Storekeeper 2nd Class Daniel Mims, of Detroit, delivers pizzas to waiting sailors aboard the USS Kitty Hawk. The pizzas were flown in from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, by Fleet Logistic Squadron 30, Detachment 5, during its daily delivery of mail, parts and personnel.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Liver donation: Todd Krampitz got his new liver through an appeal via billboard ads and Internet. Now, the 32-year-old Houston man's family has posted a new billboard to send out a big "thank you" for the liver donation that saved his life.

Krampitz was discharged Monday from The Methodist Hospital after getting the transplant late last week.

An out-of-state donor family specified that the liver go to Krampitz, who was diagnosed with liver cancer in May.

The new billboard bears Krampitz's picture and says, "Thank you! Give the gift of life. Become an organ donor."

Shoe bomber: Richard Reid, the British man convicted of trying to use a shoe bomb to explode a trans-Atlantic flight, is continuing to challenge his prison conditions.

Reid, a self-proclaimed member of the al-Qaida terrorist network, is serving a life sentence for the 2001 attempted bombing.

The Justice Department has imposed restrictions on Reid and other terrorism-related prisoners considered a threat to national security.

In a handwritten lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Denver last week, Reid wrote he has been kept in isolation in a cell with a window that lets in what he believes is inadequate natural light, and that his mail is inspected by authorities.

N.J. governor: After a conversation with Gov. James E. McGreevey, U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine backed off the notion of a bid to replace the embattled governor in a special election.

In his stunning announcement last week that he had engaged in an extramarital affair with another man, McGreevey said he would resign, but planned to serve through Nov. 15.

Corzine issued a statement Wednesday saying McGreevey assured him that he intended to stick to that plan. "I accept that decision as final," Corzine said.

Statens Island ferry crash: A former Statens Island ferry captain who initially refused to speak with investigators about a disastrous ferry wreck will escape prosecution in exchange for his help in the case against another official.

In an agreement made public Wednesday at the arraignment of former Capt. Michael Gansas, the sole charge against him — lying to Coast Guard investigators — will be



Asian Bird flu: Chickens are displayed for sale at a wet market in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Thursday. Initial testing on a group of chickens with bird flu in northern Malaysia shows they are not infected with the same dangerous strain that has been blamed for the deaths of 27 people in Asia, but the country suspended all exports of poultry as a precaution.

dropped if he helps in the prosecution of Patrick Ryan, the city director of ferry operations.

He'll also be able to regain his pilot's license in three years, his attorneys said he would consider it.

Teen murder suspects: Two teenage girls accused of killing one of the girls' grandparents were denied bond Thursday. Prosecutors in Fayetteville, Ga., argued that Sandy Ketchum, 16, and 15-year-old Holly Harvey should stay in jail because they are a flight risk and because of the severity of the crime. Fayette County Superior Court Judge Paschal English did not explain why he denied the bond in his ruling.

Holly Harvey is accused of recruiting Ketchum, her lesbian lover, to help kill Carl and Sarah Collier in their home on Aug. 2, police said.

Police say the elderly couple, with whom Harvey lived, had ordered her to stop seeing the girl and to stop using drugs.

World

Bobby Fischer case: Bobby Fischer's law-

yer accused U.S. Embassy officials Thursday of refusing to meet with the chess legend, who has been detained for more than a month and faces deportation, in a ploy to undermine his effort to renounce his U.S. citizenship and marry his Japanese fiancée.

Amnesty International, meanwhile, issued a statement supporting Fischer, saying Japan's handling of his case has been "stoppy and political" and calling on officials to treat him fairly.

S. Korea seeks delay in U.S. troop cuts: South Korea is asking the United States to delay plans to slash the number of U.S. troops based on the divided Korean Peninsula during talks that started Thursday on the future of their military cooperation, a government official said.

Washington has notified Seoul of its plans to withdraw 12,500 of 37,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea by the end of 2005, forcing South Korea's military to shoulder more responsibility for defending against any military aggression from North Korea. Some 3,600 Americans already have been sent from South Korea to Iraq.

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S. Korea bases report minor typhoon damages

BY FRANKLIN FISHER
AND JASPEN GIORDANO
Stars and Stripes

PYONGTAEK, South Korea — Typhoon Megi swept across southern South Korea on Thursday but U.S. military officials reported only minor problems at installations around the peninsula.

Five South Koreans were reported dead or missing.

At remote Camp Mu Juk, a heavily wooded U.S. Marine Corps logistics base, Marines were told to avoid any "unnecessary work" outdoors Thursday because of the risk of trees or other objects being tossed about by high winds. "We're kind of out in the middle of nowhere here with a lot of nature around us, a lot of trees," said 1st Lt. Charles Chambers, Mu Juk's officer-in-charge.

Until about 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Chambers said, typhoon warnings led to restricting the Marines to quarters in the camp, which is near Pohang on South Korea's east coast.

"We confined everybody to their quarters except for food service personnel and minimal security forces," he said. "Marines and sailors that we have here were allowed to go from their room in the barracks to the chow hall and back."

By around 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Chambers listed the restriction to quarters but said base personnel were to focus on work they could do indoors.

"The main precaution we were taking was just keeping people out of the weather, keeping them indoors," he said.

At the Army's Camp Hialeah in Pusan, several buildings lost electric power Wednesday morning but no other outages were reported at installations within the Army's Area IV district, said Kevin R. Jackson, chief spokesman for



People struggle to push a car out of a flooded parking lot Wednesday as Typhoon Megi pours heavy rains on the area south of Seoul. Megi swept across the southwest tip of South Korea, leaving thousands of people homeless and at least three people dead, officials said Thursday.

the Area IV Support Activity at Camp Henry in Taegu.

The unit activated its emergency operations center about 3 p.m. Wednesday and expected it to stay in operation until the storm had left South Korea, Jackson said Thursday.

Public Works department and Korean Service Corps laborers also were put on standby in case the weather created emergencies at Area IV installations, Jackson

said. The workers removed debris from drainage ditches at the installations, he said.

At the Walker Army Helipoint in Taegu, crews moved aircraft off the flight line into hangars.

Some 550 troops deployed for exercise Uchi Focus Lens moved from tents to regular buildings at three installations, camps Hialeah and Henry, and in Waegwan, Camp Carroll, Jackson said. The troops were to return to their tent

areas once the storm had passed, he said.

About 1,000 sandbags were added to flood-prone spots, Jackson said, adding to 5,000 sandbags already "pre-positioned" at Area IV installations.

At Chinhae Naval Base in lower South Korea, Typhoon Megi downed eight small trees, damaged tiles on two roofs and did "some very minor damage" to the perimeter fence, said Cmdr. Frank Martin, Fleet Activities Chinhae's commanding officer.

The Navy also took down three tents that had been set up for personnel on base to take part in a military exercise, and moved the personnel into the base gym.

Martin voiced relief that Megi had been far less severe than Typhoon Maemi, which ravaged South Korea in September, causing \$4.5 million in damage to U.S. military installations in lower South Korea. Maemi, ranked as the most powerful typhoon in South Korean history, was responsible for more than 100 deaths.

"I was here for Typhoon Maemi," Martin said, adding that "the storm we had today was not even a third as strong." Maemi packed winds of more than 100 knots with gusts up to 130 knots, he said. Megi brought winds of 25 to 35 knots with gusts approaching 40.

But, Martin said, "The memory of Typhoon Maemi made us take the storm very seriously."

By Thursday afternoon, the storm had passed over South Korea and was tracking northeast over the Sea of Japan. It forced about 2,500 people to evacuate their homes in South Korea. Some 90 domestic flights were canceled, and rail service was disrupted.

Areas in the southern peninsula reported six to eight inches of rain from late Wednesday through early Thursday.

One 47-year-old man was killed while working near a dam and a 65-year-old woman who was walking on a bridge over a brook was swept away by the flood, said Kang Chung, an emergency official. A 69-year-old man also was killed, but no details were immediately available.

Missing were a 74-year-old man apparently swept away while working on a farm in Naju city, about 175 miles south of Seoul, and a 42-year-old man, Kang said.

All the casualties were in southwestern Cholla province.

Early Thursday morning, the storm also took a swipe at Sasebo Naval Base in southern Japan.

The Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment issued a gale warning about 1 a.m. on Wednesday and extended the warning until about 1:30 p.m. Thursday.

A power outage occurred in main base housing Thursday morning as the gale's gusts reached 69 mph about 3:30 a.m., forecasters said.

"Outages were short-term and confined to the main base. There are no reported injuries," said base spokesman Charles T. Howard. "There was some minor wind-related damage last night and this morning."

A piece of roofing from a gazebo by the Riverside Food Court was blown off and a door to Sasebo's galley "got away from someone entering and hit the wall, breaking all the glass."

The storm passed the Sasebo area about 93 miles to the west-northwest about 4:20 a.m.

Sasebo's NPMOD downgraded the gale warning to a small craft warning about 1:30 p.m. as the gale weakened to winds from 23 to 29 mph with occasional gusts up to 40 mph.

Greg Tyler and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

DeCA case lot sale set for September

Stars and Stripes

The Defense Commissary Agency is reminding customers its twice-a-year savings event — the case lot sale — is a few weeks away.

DeCA has deemed September the month for the "world's highest case lot sale," at which customers can save up to 50 percent on popular paper goods, canned goods, cleaning products and more, DeCA officials said. Twice a year — May and September — DeCA offers customers at almost all of its 273 stores the ability to buy case lots.

During May's sale, customers worldwide saved more than \$5 million on more than 1 million cases of products, Pat Nixon, DeCA chief executive officer, stated in a news release.

A new feature for September's sale is a case lot sale link on De-

CA's Web site, www.commissaries.com. Shoppers can find all participating commissaries' tentative sale dates there. Many stores also may provide a sample list of planned sale items and sale hours on the "spotlighting" page.

DeCA recommends that customers contact their local stores to verify sale dates, times and items, which may change due to unforeseen circumstances, such as inclement weather or delivery problems. Store phone numbers can be found on the Web page.

DeCA is recommending military retirees near Army and Air Force installations also go to the Web site to check on case lot sales during the Sept. 17-19 weekend. If the sale is scheduled that weekend, DeCA said, it will coincide with the Army and Air Force installation exchanges' "Still Serving" campaign, for which sales and events also are planned.

Help is on the way



VINCE LITTLE/Stars and Stripes

A Japanese motorist awaits the arrival of an off-base wrecker service after a two-car accident on Thursday at Yokota Air Base, Japan. The collision occurred about 3:45 p.m. at the intersection of Airfield Avenue and the entrance to the Yokota Community Center, temporarily blocking two lanes. No active-duty servicemen were involved in the accident, and there were no injuries. The 374th Security Forces Squadron is investigating the incident.

Correction

A brief in Friday's edition about the upcoming change of command for Naval Special Warfare Unit 1 of Naval Forces Marianas, Guam, misquoted the name of incoming commander Capt. Charles "Chaz" M. Heron.

School bus security will be as simple as A, B, C

DODDS plans GPS tracking, student passes

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

A terrorist hijacks a bus full of military kids en route to a sporting event in Tokyo.

The bus driver triggers a remote duress alarm, and within seconds Department of Defense Dependents Schools Pacific officials know which street the bus is traveling — and its direction and speed — and they alert law enforcement.

When 24,000 DODDS-Pacific students in Japan, Okinawa and South Korea start school later this month, they'll be riding school buses beefed up with technology, including onboard digital cameras and a Global Positioning System (GPS).

"We're utilizing this technology to do the best that we can to ensure the safety of our students riding the buses," said Jack Martin, chief of DODDS-Pacific transportation division.

It's also about "accountability — who's on the bus — and to be able to respond in an emergency situation and assist local military or national police in the event of an emergency or an accident," Martin said.

DODDS-Pacific awarded contracts this summer to Critel Inc. of Seoul to install the systems, school officials said.



The on-bus cameras for 336 buses in Japan, Okinawa and South Korea cost \$1.1 million, Martin said; the vehicle tracking system for 187 buses in Japan and on Okinawa cost \$760,000.

"We're into it full bore," Martin said. "Our goal is to have this installed before school starts."

The upgrades in mainland Japan and Okinawa include GPS to track the location of DODDS buses and passengers. South Korea's DODDS buses have been using the system since 2001.

GPS will enable transportation specialists to track the speed and direction of buses on a detailed electronic map.

A software program installed at student transportation field offices will allow officials to link up

and zoom into a bus' route, Martin said.

"It allows us to track the bus if it veers and goes outside the route area," he said.

The technology also can be used for "quality-assurance purposes," Martin said, recording the time a bus takes to finish its assigned route, for example.

Part of the upgrades is a duress alarm that bus drivers or security attendants can activate remotely, notifying the transportation office personnel of an emergency.

Bus drivers also will be able to communicate by cell phone or e-mail via a mobile data terminal — a mini-screen on the dashboard.

A driver will be able to press bilingual, preprogrammed messages on the menu such as: "I'm in-



Courtesy of DODDS-Pacific

Left: A small data screen on the dashboards of school buses will help drivers in Japan and Okinawa to relay messages to school transportation officials in the event of an emergency. Buses in South Korea already have the equipment. Above: Digital video cameras, like this one, will be installed on DODDS buses in Japan, South Korea and Okinawa. DODDS officials say the cameras will be used to reduce disciplinary problems and vandalism.

involved in an accident. No injuries," Martin said.

While GPS can locate the buses, passengers will be tracked through wireless electronic scanning technology.

Starting in January, DODDS students in Japan and Okinawa will be issued new bus passes embedded with a digital identification code that will be scanned each time they board or exit the bus.

Students in South Korea already have the pass.

"If a parent calls up and says a student never came home from school, we'll be able to verify whether the kid was even on the bus," Martin said.

To reduce disciplinary problems and vandalism, all buses in Japan, South Korea and Okinawa

will be equipped with four digital cameras that record in color.

Buses previously had cameras, but they utilized unreliable 8-mm videotape; the images often were fuzzy, the sounds inaudible, and the camera didn't capture everything inside the bus, Martin said.

The new cameras will record up to five days of data before re-recording.

"It's not real time, where you can sit and watch the bus go down the road," Martin said.

GPS and the cameras won't be installed on Defense Department buses on Guam this fall, "but I anticipate it will be in the future," Martin said.

DODDS-Pacific assumed administration of Guam DOD schools on July 1.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@pstripes.osd.mil

Yokota helo makes 'precautionary' landing at helipad at Yokohama

Aircrew lands to conduct safety inspection on engine, officials say

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A UH-1N Huey helicopter assigned to the 439th Airlift Squadron made a "precautionary" landing at the Kinko Park Public Helipad in Yokohama on Thursday morning for a safety inspection of a major engine component, 374th Airlift Wing officials said.

A four-member aircrew, on its way back to Yokota from Izu Oshima, set the helicopter down at 9:57 a.m. in Yokohama's Minato Mirai district, according to Yoshio Tateishi of the city's Japan Defense Facilities Administration Bureau office. He said no one was injured.

Whether the crew was on a training mission or regularly scheduled flight was unclear, Tateishi added. For at least part of Thursday, he said, they remained at the helipad, to which another helicopter from Yokota was being dispatched with crew to repair the UH-1N's engine.

A Kanagawa Prefectural Police spokesman said the four crewmembers made an emergency landing. Neither crewmembers nor civilians were hurt and the helicopter was undamaged, the spokesman said.

1st Lt. Warren Corner, a Yokota spokesman, said he couldn't confirm the number of crewmembers involved in the incident or whether they were being transported back to the base but did say no injuries

occurred and the aircraft was not damaged during the landing.

"The aircraft performed the precautionary landing to conduct a safety inspection of the main engine gearbox," stated a 374th Airlift Wing news release. "To ensure the aircraft is safe to fly, it will remain at the helipad until the safety inspection is completed."

Yokohama City municipal government officials got word of the incident shortly after 10 a.m.

"We received a report from Defense Facilities Administration Yokohama Bureau shortly after the helicopter made an emergency landing," a city spokesman said. "We were informed that it was 9:57 a.m. that the helicopter landed on a helipad located on the Naibo Berth in Minato Mirai district in the city, after experiencing engine trouble."

The helipad is used by a commercial aviation company, he added, but usually few people are around it.

A representative of Yokohama City's Property Management Office said the helipad is about 80 feet from the public park and both are divided by a road that hasn't opened yet.

"There is a fence between the park and the road and also the helipad is enclosed with a fence," the official said. "Therefore, the helipad is not the place where general public have an access."

Chiyoji Sumida and Hiroshi Chida contributed to this report.

E-mail Vince Little at: little@pstripes.osd.mil

USS Cowpens to make port visit to Shizuoka

The Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan-based USS Cowpens was to dock in Shizuoka City, Japan, on Friday to replace a scheduled visit by USS Lake Champlain.

The U.S. Navy said in a press release the San Diego-based USS Lake Champlain wouldn't visit due to a schedule change.

The USS Cowpens is making the port visit out of appreciation to Shizuoka City. Many events and activities are planned for the sailors and city residents such as beach cleanup and cultural tours.

Navy officials didn't know how long the ship was scheduled to be in Shizuoka City.

Bon Odori at Negishi set for Saturday

The annual Yokosuka Naval Base open house Bon Odori celebration at the Negishi housing area on Saturday starts at 10 a.m. and continues until 8:30 p.m.

A variety of demonstrations, food, drink, music, games and Bon dancing are featured.

Call Negishi Morale, Welfare and Recreation at DSN 242-4120 for more information.

Navy's water treatment process slowed in Guam

Water flow to homes in Guam may alter, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas announced Thursday, saying the Navy has had to suspend selling excess water from its water treatment plant to the Guam Watershed Authority.

Recent storms have caused higher-than-normal sediment levels at the plant, slowing the filtering process, a Navy news release stated. Also, Navy reserve tanks still are low due to effects of Typhoon Ting Ting and past weather conditions, the Navy said, adding that its primary focus must be to fill the reserve tanks to continue supporting power production at Cabras Power Plant and ship traffic.

The command asked that residents with questions about water flow in their homes call the Guam Watershed Authority at 646-4211 or 647-7836.

From staff reports

Okinawans plan rallies to protest helo crash

BY DAVID ALLEN
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

GINOWAN, Okinawa — A rally is scheduled Saturday at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to protest the Aug. 13 crash of a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter into a university building just

outside the base's fence line.

Sponsors of the rally, the Okinawa Peace Center, say the demonstration will take place at 6 p.m. in front of the air station's Gate 2, the one closest to the accident site. They say they hope to attract 1,500 protesters.

It's expected to be one of several rallies to protest the resump-

tion of flights and demand the base, in the heart of an urban area, be closed before a replacement facility, planned for the waters off the Marines' Camp Schwab, can be built.

That project has been delayed by protesters who have staged a sit-in preventing an environmental survey of the area. Japanese

officials say it could be 10 years or more before a new airport can be built.

The city of Ginowan is planning a rally in early September at a site to be determined near the crash site; a city spokesman said some 10,000 people are expected to attend.

The helicopter's three crew members were injured when their craft clipped the school's administration building and crashed between the building and a city street. No civilians were hurt, but Okinawa police say helicopter debris was found up to 370 yards from the crash site and damaged homes and vehicles.

Meanwhile, Okinawa Gov. Keiichi Inamine arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday after cutting short a trip to Bolivia. During a news conference at the prefecture's Tokyo office, he also demanded all flight operations at Futenma be suspended but did not support closing the base permanently.

He said he would ask national government officials on Thursday to press the U.S. military to halt flight operations pending the results of an investigation into the accident.

The investigation also has become a sore point between Okinawa police and the Marines. While the police have complained about not being able to examine the wreckage, the Marines say that in restricting the off-base crash site, they clearly have acted within the provisions of the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement.

Okinawa prefectural authori-

ties wrote the Marine Corps Aug. 14 requesting "consent of inspection" in regard to the investigation into the CH-53D helicopter accident. 2nd Lt. Antony Andrius stated in a Marine Corps news release issued Tuesday. "Specifically, the Okinawa Prefectural authorities expressed their concern over property damage. ... In reply, the Marine Corps offered Okinawa Prefectural authorities access to the accident site and surrounding areas for the exclusive purpose of observing any property damage."

"The Marine Corps will continue to work extensively with Japan and Okinawa Prefectural authorities in joint security matters, removal of aircraft debris, site restoration, and compensation for damages as a result of the accident," he said. "The process of extracting aircraft wreckage from the site has commenced in order to facilitate the aircraft mishap investigation and to expedite site restoration efforts."

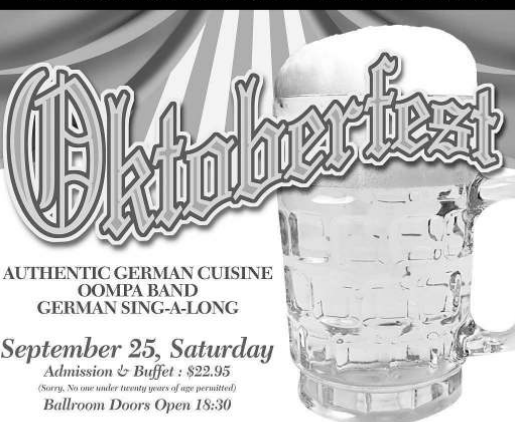
In Tokyo, Inamine said the accident showed the importance of moving forward with the Henoko project.

"It is imperative to remove the dangerous situation as soon as possible," he told reporters. "The accident reminded us once again of the danger of having an air station located in the middle of a heavily populated area."

He said the quick resumption of flights at Futenma "rudely grates against the sensibilities of the people of Okinawa."

E-mail David Allen at allen@pstrives.osd.mil or E-mail Chiyomi Sumida at sumidac@pstrives.osd.mil

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Okinawa Prefectural Assembly member Kyoko Tokashiki joins an impromptu protest just after the crash. Several more protest rallies are planned around Okinawa in the coming weeks.



PHOTOS BY DAVE ORINIER/Stars and Stripes

The wreckage of a Marine Corps CH-53D Sea Stallion smolders an hour after it crashed into a building Aug. 13 at Okinawa International University. Three crew members were injured in the accident, which occurred close to Futenma Marine Corps Air Station.

Al-Sadr told militia to hand over Najaf shrine

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEIDI

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — An aide to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said the militant leader instructed his followers late Thursday to hand control of a revered shrine to top religious authorities in Iraq.

A top al-Sadr aide, Aws al-Khafaji, told the pan-Arab Al-Jazeera television station that the cleric asked his militia to give control of the Imam Ali Shrine compound to officials from the office of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shiite Muslim cleric.

The government had called on al-Sadr's followers to disarm, evacuate the shrine and disband their militia or Iraqi forces would storm the holy site and wipe them out.

Al-Arabiya television showed a copy of a letter al-Sadr reportedly sent to his followers late Thursday. The handwritten letter had al-Sadr's office's seal, but not his signature, the station said.

"I call on the religious authority again to receive the shrine so that it won't be taken by the hands of the enemy and of treason. I have offered it to you before and you have refused before the (latest) incidents," the letter read.

However, al-Sadr refused to disband the militia, according to the letter, saying it belonged to Imam Mahdi, the Shiite messiah. Fighting between U.S. forces and Shiite insurgents in the Baghdad suburb of Sad City killed at least 10 people on Thursday, a spokesman for the militants said.

Sheikh Hassan al-Athari, who heads radi-



A building explodes as the first bomb drops Thursday during a U.S. aerial assault on insurgent targets in Najaf, Iraq. High-altitude jet fighters dropped four bombs in the area.

cal Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's office in the troubled Baghdad district, said five civilians and five militants were killed during "sporadic skirmishes" with U.S. troops.

He also said at least 20 people were injured in the skirmishes.

U.S. troops have been fighting with militants loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr for much of the past two weeks. In recent days, however, the U.S. offensive ap-

peared to have intensified.

Earlier Thursday, Prime Minister Ayad Allawi issued a "final call" to Shiite insurgents to disarm and withdraw from a revered shrine after his government threatened a massive onslaught by Iraqi forces. As the peace deal for Najaf unraveled, militants bombarded a police station with mortar rounds, killing seven police and injuring 31 others.

Explosions and gunbattles persisted through the streets of the holy city of Najaf, wracked by violence since the Shiite militant uprising began two weeks ago. Witnesses said a U.S. warplane fired missiles at a hotel in a neighborhood where Mahdi Army militants were known to take up fighting positions.

The Arab League chief on Thursday called for an immediate end to military operations in Najaf and said Iraqi civilians must be spared. Secretary-General Amr Moussa received news of artillery "shelling and renewed clashes with great uneasiness," Arab League spokesman Hossam Zaki said in a statement.

An al-Sadr representative in Baghdad, Abdel-Hadi al-Darraj, warned that fighting in Najaf could "ignite a revolution all over Iraq."

Government accusations that the militants had mined the shrine compound and reports that women and children were among those inside could further complicate a raid.

U.S. troop action against the shrine also would increase outrage in the Shiite world, but Iraqi officials have said a crack squad of Iraqi troops would lead an assault on the poorly trained militants, and U.S. forces would not go inside the compound.

The crisis in Najaf poses the greatest challenge yet to the authority Allawi's fledgling government, which is seeking to gain support from skeptical Iraqis and bring stability to the violence-plagued country.

Alcohol, drug problems lead to private's jail sentence, discharge

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — A Kitzingen-based soldier who refused to go to Iraq because of his alcohol and drug problems will serve 15 months in jail, a military judge ruled Wednesday.

Pvt. Octavious Newton, 20, of the 12th Chemical Company, pleaded guilty to charges of failing to show up for duty, missing a troop movement and using marijuana. Judge (Col.) James Pohl, also handed him a bad-conduct discharge.

"I didn't want to deploy," Newton told the court. "I told my chain of command I'd been drinking."

Newton said he grew up in a rough neighborhood in Atlanta. As a teenager, he discovered the Army's Youth Challenge Program, which "blatantly troubled youths earn a high school diploma and trains them for the military with drills and physical training."

Newton arrived in Kitzingen, his first duty post, in late 2002.

His friend, Staff Sgt. Octavious Rogers, described him as a "good, quiet, soft-spoken" soldier who did his job well.

Newton earned an Army Achievement Medal for his work at a training exercise in Grafenwöhr.

But, Newton said, he was struggling with alcohol and drug addiction.

Last year he was demoted for

"Pvt. Newton has a serious problem, and he needs help. ... He's got his whole life in front of him."

Capt. Debra Quanbeck

Newton's attorney

three alcohol-related infractions, and in September he sought help from the Army's substance abuse counseling program.

He was put on medication, he said, that made it difficult to sleep and gave him vivid nightmares.

Newton, his counselors and his superiors agreed he would attend a six-week treatment program at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, if he followed certain conditions.

But he violated a restriction Feb. 7, just days before his unit's scheduled deployment to Iraq.

Nine days later, when his company commander ordered him to go, Newton refused.

Left with the rear detachment to face disciplinary action, he twice failed urinalysis tests after smoking marijuana.

Pvt. Newton has a serious problem, and he needs help," said attorney, Capt. Debra Quanbeck, told the court, asking that he be discharged and sent home.

"He's 20 years old. He's got his whole life in front of him."

The prosecutor, Capt. Sara Holland, asked that Newton be jailed for longer than his unit's scheduled one-year deployment.

"He refused. He could have gone. He had no reason not to," Holland said.

"Plenty of people in his unit didn't refuse. They did what they were supposed to."

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Prayer in Sanctuary <td>10:00am <td>Adult Bible Study <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td></td>	10:00am <td>Adult Bible Study <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td>	Adult Bible Study <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			
Worship Service <td>10:45am <td>Youth, Total Singers, and Missionaries. <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td></td>	10:45am <td>Youth, Total Singers, and Missionaries. <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td>	Youth, Total Singers, and Missionaries. <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			
Children's Church (English, Japanese) <td>10:45am <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td>	10:45am <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				
Evening Service <td></td> <td></td> <td>THURSDAY</td> <td>Power Hour</td> <td>8:00pm-9:00</td>			THURSDAY	Power Hour	8:00pm-9:00
Children's Sunday School <td></td> <td></td> <td>FRIDAY</td> <td>"Come to the River"</td> <td>Chorale Service (3rd Friday of month)</td>			FRIDAY	"Come to the River"	Chorale Service (3rd Friday of month)
Youth Action Service <td>1:00pm</td> <td></td> <td>SATURDAY</td> <td>Honored Men's Ministries</td> <td>8:30 a.m.</td>	1:00pm		SATURDAY	Honored Men's Ministries	8:30 a.m.
Home Fellowship Groups (every 1st & 3rd Sunday)	6:00pm		Prayer Breakfast & Training		

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.S. vehicles receive Mad Max makeover

2nd ID vehicles are upgraded to survive rough traveling in Iraq

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Soft-shelled 2nd Infantry Division vehicles are getting a Middle East makeover that includes armor, blast-proof windows and air conditioners to enhance safety and comfort for soldiers.

The vehicles, from the Iraq-bound 2nd ID's, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, known as Strikeforce, arrived in Kuwait last week. They survived tough roads and muddy hills near the Korean Demilitarized Zone, but now must be refitted for jagged rocks and roadside bombs in Iraq.

At the Mad Max shop on Camp Buehring, soldiers work through the night to prepare 2nd ID Humvees, Light Medium Tactical Vehicles, M923 trucks, M915 trucks and Heavy Equipment Transport Systems.

The shop got its name from the post-apocalyptic Mel Gibson film trilogy that features its own version of air-armored vehicles going back to the Australian outback. The workshop looks similar to a modern version of the sort of blacksmith's yards that medieval knights probably went to to upgrade their armor before battle.

It is the brainchild of Chief Warrent Officer Randall Menough, 41, of Salem, Ohio, and Staff Sgt. Dennis Kenney, 36, from East Jordan, Mich., who have 40 years' combined experience working with metal.

The pair, from the 699th Maintenance Company out of Fort Irwin, Calif., were assigned to force protection at Camp Buehring in April. But when soldiers asked them to up-armor vehicles not assigned commercial armor, they saw a demand they could meet.

Menough is an allied trades technician able to oversee welding, machining, panel beating, canvas repair, woodwork, glasswork, vehicle recovery and crane operations, while Kenney is a senior welder and machinist.

The pair set up shop in a corner of the camp and quickly started. In three days, they up-armored an entire battalion's vehicles.

Soon they had five soldiers from the 699th working for them and hundreds of sheets of Hardox 400, a type of armor with a high nickel and chromium content.

The Hardox costs \$1,200 a sheet, which for a while caused the Army to question the volume consumed at the shop, Kenney said.

"We were going through 80 sheets every four days and they [the Army] couldn't believe we were going through that much," he said. "They thought we were wasting metal, but then they came and saw our operations."

The Army changed its view and recently delivered 590 sheets of Hardox, he said.

"This month we have gone through 490 sheets," he said.

Soldiers cut the armor into the shapes of doors and gun mounts that Kenney has designed for the vehicles.

The shop runs from 12 to 15 hours each night because, by day, the metal plates get too hot to pick up. In a single night, the soldiers can up-armor as many as 140 doors on 70 LMTVs. Since April, the shop has up-armored more than 1,900 vehicles, Menough said.

Units receiving the armor have reported that it has saved seven lives when roadside bombs exploded, he said.

"They say our armor is preferred to the factory armor because we cover just the head shot so they have a lot more area to fire out of. It is a deterrent to the enemy. They pick the easy targets — the vehicle that is up there with no doors at all," Menough said.

On Wednesday night, the Mad Max shop was a hive of activity.

Blowtorches spark sparks into the night while off-cuts piled up in the dust and riffs of armored doors were spread on the ground.



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

A 2nd Infantry Division Humvee from South Korea has new armored doors and windows and an air conditioning unit installed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

One of the soldiers doing the work, Pfc. Trinity Lueschow of the 2nd Forward Support Battalion, 20, from Gillette, Wyo., cut 34 doors in two days, he said.

"I enjoy cutting and welding. You need to be careful and watch your line. The difficult part is cutting a straight line," he said.

Several hours' drive away, at Arifjan, dozens of 2nd ID Humvees are being made over with commercial up-armoring kits.

On Monday, Sgt. 1st Class Norris Evans, 39, of Haynesville, La., the maintenance control sergeant for Company B, 2nd Forward Support Battalion, supervised work on several Humvees assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment.

"We are preparing the vehicles for the guys putting the armor and air conditioners in them," he said.

The soldiers take off the old doors and the bolts where the armor is going to mount so that all the mechanics have to do is drill holes and put the armor on.

After the 2nd ID soldiers prepare the vehicles, civilian Department of Defense mechanics add the armor and air conditioners. Most are former servicemembers and many are Vietnam veterans.

The mechanics wear stars-and-stripes bandanas dipped in cool water to keep their heads cool while they work.

"[The Humvees] come here soft, and we make them hard, and they send them up north," said Merlin Jones from Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

A typical push sees the mechanics service 75 Humvees. Since March 2003, more than 8,000 armor kits, 2,000 air conditioners and 4,500 windshields have been installed in Kuwait and Iraq, officials said.



Merlin Jones from Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois is overseeing upgrades to 2nd Infantry Division Humvees in Kuwait.

Jones, a stocky veteran who served in Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division, said the vehicles are a lot tougher than the jeeps and Hueys he rode in Vietnam that had no armor.

"Compared to Vietnam, this is a whole different ball game," he said.

Nearby technicians installed Blue Force Trackers and movement tracking systems in the Humvees. Almost 3,000 Blue Force Trackers have been installed since the war started, officials said.

The tracking system allows soldiers to chat or e-mail other vehicles on the battlefield, all the while tracking each other and possible targets. A touch screen allows operators to zoom in on their area of operations using satellite images updated every few minutes.

"People can plot routes and

enemy positions on maps and satellite images displayed on a monitor, then share them with everybody else in theater," said defense contractor Greg Garrett, who is helping install the systems.

After the 2nd ID Humvees finish their makeovers, they roll out of Arifjan sporting new yellow doors on their green frames.

"It kind of feels like a new vehicle with the armor on it, but we still have to keep the maintenance up. When you drive it, it feels heavier but it feels good," said Evans, who believes soldiers will be particularly impressed by the air conditioners.

"The guys won't be getting baked in the vehicles when they are driving in 120 degrees Fahrenheit weather," he said. "In summertime it would be nice [to have air-conditioned Humvees] in Korea."

E-mail Seth Robson at: robsonsg@strips.osd.mil

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Official says two dozen to be blamed in prison abuse

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. Army investigation into the abuse of inmates at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison will blame at least two dozen people and conclude that while no senior commanders ordered the abusive acts, they should be faulted for inadequate supervision, two defense officials said Thursday.

The officials said the report is expected to be provided to Congress next week. They discussed the matter only on condition of the anonymity because it is still under internal review.

In addition to the military intelligence personnel who are a key focus of the investigation report, the Army found that military medical personnel became aware of abuse at Abu Ghraib while treating injured prisoners but failed to report it to their command superiors.

The treatment of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib, the notorious prison where inmates were tortured and killed during the regime of Saddam Hussein, grew into an international scandal after photographs surfaced last spring showing U.S. soldiers abusing and sexually humiliating prisoners.

An initial Army report, by Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba, said soldiers of the 372nd Military Police Company had committed "sadistic, blatant and wanton" criminal acts at the prison. Of the seven military police soldiers charged with the abuses, one has pleaded guilty; lawyers for the other six have ar-

gued that they had followed orders from military intelligence officials.

The New York Times, which first reported the finding on the medical personnel, said in its Thursday editions that it obtained medical records showing that medics had been in the area of the prison where the abuse occurred several times to treat suspicious wounds.

A separate report on the prison cases, launched by Maj. Gen. George R. Fay, examined the role of military intelligence, including the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade, the unit that was in control of interrogations at Abu Ghraib under the command of Col. Thomas M. Pappas. The Fay investigation found no evidence to directly blame anyone above Pappas, defense officials said Thursday.

Although Fay concluded that no senior commanders ordered, encouraged or condoned the abusive acts, his report said they should be faulted for allowing conditions that led to the misdeeds.

Fay found that commanders did not provide sufficient supervision and oversight of the prison system.

The Fay report places direct blame on at least two dozen people, who are expected to face disciplinary action ranging from administrative punishment that could damage or end their military careers to criminal charges, the officials said. The New York Times reported that the two dozen include civilian contractors and CIA officers in addition to Army military intelligence soldiers.

Report: General broke regulations in speeches

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A Defense Department investigation has determined that Lt. Gen. William Boykin, the Pentagon's senior military intelligence official, violated three internal regulations while delivering speeches that linked the war on terrorism to what he depicted as an enduring battle against Satan, according to a copy of the probe obtained Wednesday by The Washington Post.

Arab groups sharply criticized Boykin's remarks, accusing him of bigotry. Sen. Armed Services Committee chairman John Warner, R-Va., and the committee's senior Democrat, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., demanded an inquiry and called for Boykin to step down while it proceeded. But Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld kept him in his post.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Richard Myers likewise defended Boykin and told reporters that "at first blush, it doesn't look like any rules were broken" because "there is a very wide gray area of what (they) ... permit."

The report found that Boykin improperly failed to obtain clearance for his remarks, improperly failed to clarify that his remarks were personal, and improperly failed to report reim-

bursement of travel costs from one of the sponsoring religious groups.

"We recommend that the Acting Secretary of the Army take appropriate corrective action with respect to LTG Boykin," the report said. But it added that the Army should take into consideration as a "mitigating factor" that Boykin said he repeatedly asked military lawyers about the propriety of making the speeches and he recalled no one advising him to obtain clearance for his remarks.

The report said investigators accepted that Boykin made these legal consultations in "good faith."

A spokesman for Warner said he has a copy of the report and plans to review it next week. Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the recommendation is awaiting a decision by Acting Army Secretary Les Brownlee and "it would be inappropriate to speculate on what his actions might be."

But a senior Defense official who is familiar with its contents, speaking on the condition of anonymity because no decision has been reached in the matter, said the report is seen as a "complete exoneration" that ultimately found Boykin responsible for a few "relatively minor offenses" related to technical and bureaucratic issues.

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Bush plan to enhance educational benefits for Guard, Reserve

By DEB RICHMAN

The Associated Press

CHIPPEWA FALLS, Wis. — In a gesture to troops serving unopposed in Iraq, President Bush announced an election-year proposal Wednesday to enhance education benefits for active-duty National Guardsmen and reservists.

"These brave Americans put their jobs on hold and leave their family behind when we call," Bush said during a campaign bus tour through the election swing state of Wisconsin.

More than 400,000 men and women in the reserves and the National Guard have been mobilized since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Today, just under 150,000 are serving.

"Under current rules, their education benefits don't reflect the high value of service we place on their time and duty," Bush said.

He proposed to increase monthly education benefits for all Guard members and reservists on active duty for more than 90 consecutive days.

The president also proposed giving states grants to help children in military families who have to move. "We're going to put out grant money to help states ease the burden so it's more seamless for families to go from one state to the next," Bush said.

Democrat John Kerry's campaign called Bush's proposals political gimmicks.

"We need a president who is committed to protecting National Guard and reservists every day, not just in the days before the election," said campaign spokesman Phil Singer. "John Kerry is a combat-tested veteran who has spent his career advocating for veterans and their families."

Kerry's campaign said the administration has compensated for failed policy by using the Guard and Reserve. "Reservists are overburdened and many may leave the military in large numbers because they can no longer make military service compatible with their lives," the campaign said.

Bush's proposals came the same day Kerry spoke at the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Ohio — another swing state. Kerry told his fellow veterans that he, not Bush, was their "true brother in arms."

Bush, on the other hand, was here at the National Guard Corp. said: "What I'm telling you is we're continuing to stand side by side with those who wear the uniform and the family name of those who wear the uniform."

According to the Veterans Ad-

ministration, the educational benefit for active-duty troops is a maximum of \$800 a month. But for National Guard and reservists who have been called up for two years or more, it's \$282 — a difference of \$518.

Bush also made U.S. soldiers an important theme in St. Paul, Minn., the final stop on the day's bus tour. He told thousands of cheering supporters that he was justified in ordering the removal of Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq.

He said he disagreed with Kerry, who he wants to begin withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq within six months of taking office. Bush said it would send the wrong message to U.S. enemies, who say "Fine, I'll stay six months and one day."

"It sends the wrong signal to our troops," Bush continued. "It sends the wrong signal to the Iraqis. You see they're watching carefully. They're wondering whether or not we will stand with them as they do the hard work for a free society."

"So long as I'm the president when America gives its word, America will keep its word."

Bush, who was born in 1900 by just 5,708 votes, is and is working to rally support among undecided voters outside the main Democratic strongholds of Madison and Milwaukee.

"This Wisconsin is 'W' country," Bush said in the state as a supporter tipped his cowboy hat to the president and others waved large red, white, and blue Ws.

Still, at each stop, protesters demonstrated against the war and called for Bush's ouster. They carried signs that said "Defeat Bush," "Not Welcome" and "Yee Haw is not foreign policy."

This was Bush's third bus trip through the state. Last month, his bus rumbled through eastern Wisconsin, and in May its route hugged the southwestern border along the Mississippi River.

"You know why I'm coming back?" Bush asked the crowd assembled under cloudy skies at the shipping carton business. "We've been called last time and with my help this time we will carry Wisconsin."

Kenneth R. Mayer, professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said the area in and around Chippewa Falls generally leans Democratic, yet there are swing voters to target.

"They're hunting where they think the ducks are," Mayer said.

"They're going up the base and also firing out into areas where they think they have a chance of flipping some people."

Some reservists return to find lost jobs and benefits

Labor Department troubled by rate of complaints

By LARRY MARGASAK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Benefits reduced. Promotions forgotten. Jobs gone.

It's tough to face these conditions when returning home from the mean streets of Iraq, ready to resume your civilian career.

Increasing numbers of National Guard and Reserve troops returning home are experiencing just such disappointment. Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Labor Department reports receiving greater numbers of complaints under a 1994 law that is primarily designed to give Guard and Reserve troops their old jobs back, or provide them with equivalent positions.

Benefits and raises must be protected, as if the servicemember had never left.

Labor Department officials said only a nationwide campaign to educate employers about the law prevented the problem from getting even worse.

"Any increase in the number of complaints is a concern to us," said Fred Iuarbe Jr., assistant secretary of labor for veterans employment and training. "At the same time, we're pleased by the fact that the increase in complaints is not at the level that would have been expected."

Some soldiers, however, are finding the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act can't protect them.

Larry Gill couldn't return as a police officer in Thomaston, Ala., because a grenade injured a foot, making it impossible for him to chase criminals or duck bullets.

Jerry Chambers of Oberlin, Kan., discovered that budget cuts eliminated his job as a substance abuse prevention consultant.

Ron Vander Wal of Pollock, S.D., was originally told his job as a customer service representative was eliminated. He was rehired after filing a civil lawsuit seeking damages.

Labor Secretary Elaine Chao said the department is drafting rules to spell out the law's protections

for service personnel because "we've got to do everything we can to protect their re-employment rights."

Labor was receiving about 900 formal complaints a year before the Sept. 11 attacks. The statistical picture since then, based on fiscal years ending Sept. 30:

■ 1,218 cases opened in 2002.

■ 1,327 cases in 2003.

■ 1,200 cases from Oct. 1, 2003, through July 31. If projected over 12 months, the figure would be 1,440, the department said.

Soldiers' complaints were upheld or settled by the department in one-third of last year's cases, while another third were found to have no merit. The remaining cases are inactive or closed, often because the government lost contact with the servicemember or the servicemember returned to active duty.

When Guard and Reserve troops returned from the first Gulf War, there was one complaint for every 54 servicemembers leaving active duty.

Currently, with the government's aggressive drive to inform employers of the law, the figure has improved to 1 in 69.

The complaints represent a small percentage of the quar-

ter-million Guard and Reserve troops who left active duty since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Not all returning troops are bitter about their job loss. Chambers, the substance abuse consultant, agreed that budget cuts left his former nonprofit employer no choice but to eliminate his job.

"I don't fault them for that and I don't hold grudges," said Chambers. He was among the lucky ones, finding employment with his Reserve unit, the 1013th Quartermaster Company, based in North Platte and McCook, Neb. His unit has been mobilized anew, and he is again on active duty.

For others, finding their jobs gone was an emotional and an economic hardship.

Gill, the former Alabama police officer with an injured leg, had to give up a career that began in 1992 and followed in the footsteps of his father and brother. "My biggest concern is loss of income," he said.

While some troops fault former employers for firing them as they served their country, most complaints involved alleged denial of benefits, promotions and raises, said officials from Labor and Pentagon organization — Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Army Col. Barry Cox, who coordinates the ESGR's mediation efforts between employers and returning troops, said typical issues raised by soldiers include: "What about the 401(k)? The end-of-year bonus? What about my evaluation? I was due a merit promotion that I missed."

"We try to talk employers through a logical approach; How were they (the employees) performing prior to active duty, where do you think they would have come out?"

Army on track to meet re-enlistment goal

By CHRIS VAUGHAN

Knight Rider Newspapers

FORT HOOD, Texas — Spc. Brian Harris made a cold calculation about his future in fatigues.

Then he signed the papers, raised his right hand and repeated the re-enlistment oath given by his platoon leader. He shook hands with the men from the 588th Engineer Battalion, posed for a picture and went back to work.

An Iraq war veteran, Harris weighed the probability of another long deployment before his initial enlistment would expire. He decided the best option was to re-up with a guarantee that he could move to Fort Lewis, Wash., near his hometown.

The Army is defying the conventional wisdom that the Iraq war will empty its ranks, and it appears to be on track to meet its retention goals for early, midcareer and career-enlisted soldiers.

As of late July, the Army had re-enlisted 45,256 soldiers of the 56,100 it needs to meet its target this fiscal year, which ends in September. Short of an awful last two months, Army officials say they'll make their goal.

In a year of long deployments to Iraq, the scandal at Abu Ghraib prison and a decidedly bloody spring in which 278 servicemembers died, retaining so many battle-tested corporals and sergeants is no small feat.

"In a way we're plagued by anecdotes where one soldier in a thousand is interviewed and complains that he can't wait to get out of the Army, so that means everybody must want out of the Army," said Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon. "That becomes the truth, but it isn't. We don't have any problem with retention."

The reasons, Army career counselors say, are many: an unsettled civilian economy, large bonuses, improved pay and combat itself.

As one soldier put it, a firefighter who never got to fight fires would be unlikely to keep riding the truck.

This year's re-enlistments are evidence that the exodus isn't overwhelming among the enlisted or the young officers.

Hilferty said the Army is losing 5.5 percent of its lieutenants and captains a year, significantly fewer than four years ago.

IN THE WORLD

Japan proposes anti-terrorism measures

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's national police recommended tough new anti-terror measures Thursday, including greater surveillance of Muslims living in the country, fingerprinting at immigration checkpoints and sky marshals on commercial flights.

The National Police Agency also called for a stronger police force to prevent and respond to hijackings and nuclear, biological or chemical attacks.

"In our efforts to fight terrorist networks expanding beyond national borders, our

country... is more likely to become a terrorist target," the agency said in a report recommending the new measures. "We must be prepared in the case of an extensive terrorist attack."

Japan so far has been spared any terrorist attacks, but concerns are high that the dispatch of Japanese troops to Iraq and its high-profile support of the United States could make it an enticing target for militants.

Thursday's report called for greater vigilance of Muslims and illegal immigrants living in Japan, saying their communities could be infiltrated by extremists intent on carrying out attacks.

"We have to step up anti-terror measures and strengthen information-gathering about suspicious people," the report said, adding that 90,000 people from Muslim countries live in Japan. "We also have to step up measures against illegal entrants."

Earlier this year, it was discovered that a French citizen suspected in Europe of links to Islamic extremists and al-Qaida had lived undisturbed in Japan in 2002-2003, traveling on a fake passport.

The man, Lionel Dumont, was later arrested in Germany and extradited to France. Japanese police are investigating

suspicions he was trying to set up a terrorist network in Japan.

The agency cited the growing need to use fingerprints and other biometrics information at immigration control points to stop the entry of people with terror links.

The agency also called for boosting the size and capability of police units designed to tackle nuclear, biological and chemical attacks, as well as a special assault team.

The report said Japan should step up anti-terrorism legislation to follow examples of the United States and Europe, which have broken up al-Qaida links through anti-terror laws.

The agency said it aims to implement the proposed measures within two years.

Pakistan finance minister set for prime minister post

BY MUNIR AHMAD

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Finance minister Shaukat Aziz was set to become Pakistan's prime minister next week, after he convincingly won the parliamentary seat he needed to take up the post, officials said Thursday.

Aziz, who narrowly escaped assassination when a suicide bomber attacked him on the campaign trail three weeks ago, won two by-elections by huge margins on Wednesday, amid opposition claims of vote rigging.

"I am grateful to those who voted for me, and I will do whatever is possible to improve economy and law and order situation in the country," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, as Aziz claimed victory, Pakistan's human rights commission voiced grave concern over the death in custody of an Islamic cleric accused in the attempt on his life.

Aziz, a former Citibank executive, has helped marshal a recovery in Pakistan's economy since it faced international sanctions in 1998 for testing nuclear weapons. The government of President Gen. Pervez Musharraf nominated Aziz for prime minister after Zafarullah Khan Jamali stepped down in June.

Aziz needed to win a parliamentary seat before he could take the premiership, so two ruling party loyalists resigned from their seats to facilitate the by-elections and clear the way for his candidacy.

The caretaker prime minister, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, said Wednesday that the transfer of power to Aziz would be completed in a "couple of days."

Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said Aziz's administration should be constituted between Aug. 22 and 25 — after a vote in the National Assembly, or lower house of parliament, to elect Aziz as prime minister. That vote is seen as a formality.

In Wednesday's polls, Aziz secured 76,161 votes from Attock, a city about 50 miles west of the capital, Islamabad. His chief rival, Sikandar Hayat, polled 29,443 votes.

Aziz also won in Tharparkar, a town in southern Pakistan, net-

ting 152,102 votes — more than 10 times what his closest rival received, according to Election Commission officials. The voter turnout was about 50 percent in both constituencies, an official at the commission said.

However, the Independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, which sent observers to both by-elections, estimated the turnouts at around 30 percent. It said polling was largely peaceful but said there were many complaints of use of government resources in favor of Aziz.

The official results were expected to be announced Friday.

Opposition groups have decry the process as an affront to democracy. Raza Rabbani, a senior opposition leader, also accused the government of rigging the by-elections but offered no evidence.

Candidates in Pakistan can contest more than one parliamentary seat. Aziz will take up only one of the seats he won.

The change in prime ministers was not expected to affect Pakistan's commitment to either the U.S.-led war on terror or ongoing peace talks with nuclear rival

India — matters that are firmly in Musharraf's hands.

Musharraf took power in a bloodless coup in 1999 and has since decreed changes to the constitution that empower him to renege on the prime minister or dissolve parliament.

Aziz's success with the economy has been aided by an influx of Western aid since Pakistan abandoned its support of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and allied itself with the United States after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The suicide bombing against Aziz on July 30 underscored the powerless resentment that Musharraf's government has stirred among Islamic extremists furious with its support for the war on terrorism.

Nine people were killed in the assassination attempt against Aziz, including his driver. Aziz was not injured. In December, Musharraf was targeted in two bombings that killed 17 people.

In the past month, Pakistani authorities say they have arrested more than 60 terror suspects, including foreign al-Qaida operatives and local militants — some accused in the attacks on Aziz and Musharraf.



Nyabitorondore, a 12-year-old gorilla, holds her twins, one partly obscured, last month in the Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda. The third ever recorded set of mountain gorilla twins was delivered in May 2004.

Tourists go ape over gorilla twins

BY RODRIQUE NGOWI

The Associated Press

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK, Rwanda — The gorilla gazed suspiciously at the eight approaching humans, then turned her back on them to protect what she was holding. A male as heavy as two shot-putters emerged from the bushes, sat down about 10 paces from the visitors, and let out a deep growl.

The treasure these two rare giants were guarding was a pair of baby twins — only the third ever recorded.

Among the world's endangered mountain gorillas, the 37-member Sussu troop is the largest that's accustomed to tourists, but any sudden movement could still provoke them.

There are no mountain gorillas in captivity, and all of them just 380 at last count — live in central Africa, the adults eating up to 70 pounds a day of bamboo shoots, wild celery, nettles and ants.

Since the middle of last year, gorilla troops have produced 14 other babies, and the birth of the twins in May has delighted conservation experts.

"Every birth is crucial to the genetic viability of the mountain gorillas, and the birth of twins is an exceptional event," said Fidélie Ruzandekwa, head of the Rwanda Wildlife Agency. "It is like a miracle because the primates are threatened with extinction."

But the joy is tinged with concern. "The mother is doing fine up to now. She manages to feed and handle them quite well," Ruzandekwa explained. "But caring for the babies will become more difficult as the twins grow older, heavier, stronger and more active."

Until 12-year-old Nyabitorondore weans them at age 4, she will be fiercely protective, carrying them on her arms or back partly to protect them from wild dogs, hyenas and other forest predators.

Volcanoes National Park, Africa's first, was established by Rwanda's Belgian colonial rulers in 1925 after Carl Akeley of the American Museum of Natural History made a plea to protect the gorilla.

It lies on the Rwandan side of a mountain range that straddles the borders of Rwanda, Congo and Uganda.

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Rodents wreaking havoc in Japan's cities



Tokyo Hands department store clerk Kazuhiro Yoshiki shows products to exterminate rats in Tokyo on Thursday. Noticing a spike in requests for rat-killing products a few years ago, the department store sells a full line of devices, from traditional mousetraps to a high-tech contraption that uses a rat-scaring sensor.

BY CHISAKI WATANABE
The Associated Press

TOKYO — They trigger fires, prey on the elderly and thrive in the cement jungles of Japanese cities. But Japan's latest urban predators aren't delinquents or gang members — they're rats.

Complaints about the rodents have soared over the last decade, and cities have devoted officials to the task of wiping them out.

Last month, Tokyo hosted its first "anti-rat" symposium.

The vermin nibble electrical wires that spark fires, nest in the homes of Japanese cities' growing population of elderly and infirm, and wake residents when they noisily scurry around crawl spaces and through plumbing.

They're also making more regular appearances in Japan's urban commercial districts. Hideaki Okuzawa, who fills soda vending machines in Tokyo, says he and his co-workers often encounter the creatures.

"A colleague found a nest with a baby rat when he opened a vending machine," Okuzawa said, gri-

macing in disgust. "I wouldn't be able to stand it."

Rats are hardly a new phenomenon in the world's big metropolitan areas. But Japanese officials think the surge in rat-sightings in their cities is being fueled by the spread of so-called roof rats — known scientifically as *Rattus rattus*.

Roof rats are agile building climbers accustomed to living in urban environments near humans. Officials say they are more resistant to pesticides than Norway rats that have long troubled Japanese gutters and sewer pipes.

"Roof rats are well adapted to living inside buildings," said Fumiko Matsuda, an official handling rat problems for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

"They're also escaping from old buildings that are being torn down and moving into surrounding residences."

Japanese officials have no estimates on the total rat population. But complaints about rats in Tokyo have increased from 10,241 in 1995 to nearly 20,000 in 2001, though the number dropped to

about 16,000 in the 2003 fiscal year. In Osaka, city hall received about 9,200 complaints last year, up 28 percent from 1996.

It's not only an aesthetic problem. The Tokyo Fire Department said there have been 115 fires linked to rats since 1995, causing 22 injuries and \$3.2 million in damage. Many were caused by chewed wiring.

Matsuda said officials may only have scratched the surface of the rat problem, speculating that infestation in supermarkets, department stores and railways has yet to be fully revealed.

Moves are afoot to stamp out the critters. Tokyo is scheduled to come up with anti-rat guidelines by the end of fiscal 2004, which ends March 31.

In the meantime, some folks are taking matters into their own hands.

The Tokyo Hands department store noticed a spike in requests for rat-killing products a few years ago, and now they carry a full line of devices, from traditional mousetraps to a high-tech contraption that uses a rat-scaring sensor. It sells for \$480.

iPod finds success in Sony's back yard

BY YURI KAGEYAMA
The Associated Press

TOKYO — When Sony Corp. President Kunitake Ando showed off the new Walkman meant to counter the assault by Apple's iPod portable music player, he held the prized gadget at the gala event upside down.

That may have been a bad omen. The iPod is proving a colossal hit on the Japanese electronics and entertainment giant's own turf. The tiny white machine is catching on as a fashion statement and turning into a cultural icon in Japan, much the same way it won a fanatic following in the United States.

Apple Computer Inc. has launched a marketing campaign in Japan with catchy TV ads and billboards painted on Tokyo trains. It opened its first Apple store in Tokyo's glitzy Ginza late last year and is opening another in the city of Osaka this month.

"I only want something I can believe in," says 21-year-old design-school student Hironori Sakurai, who has smiles after buying an iPod recently at the bustling Apple store. "It's a question of sensibility."

When the colorful and smaller iPod mini went on sale in July, more than 1,000 people waited for the store to open. The waiting list for minis is now several weeks' long.

Although Apple doesn't release regional sales figures, six of the top eight selling music players in Japan are iPod models, according to GfK Japan, a market research company.

Its white earbuds are so well-known, just wearing them on Tokyo streets can make passers-by smile approvingly. iPod chat pervades Internet bulletin boards. The mini is such a hit it's being offered as prizes in lotteries sponsored by drink and candy companies here.

Porter bags, a cool brand among Japanese youngsters, sell iPod carrying cases. Rock band Orange Range, hip-hop musician Makoto Sakurai and disc jockey Sugururum are iPod users.

"First of all, the iPod design is cute," said movie director Shohei Tanahara, who listens to Prince and Janet Jackson with his iPod while cooking pasta at home or driving his Mercedes.

"Japanese electronics products may come packed with a lot of functions, but they usually have more buttons and their designs are cluttered."

The largest, 40-gigabyte version, sells for \$406 in Japan.



Japanese shoppers try on colorful iPod mini at Apple store in Tokyo's Ginza district Thursday. The iPod is proving a colossal hit with Japanese lately — right on Japanese electronics and entertainment giant Sony's own turf.

Last month, Sony unveiled the hard-drive Network Walkman — a product that goes head-to-head against the iPod and promises longer battery life.

It was at that event Ando showed off the wrong side up — an error that has Apple officials smirking. Sony will not release sales figures for Network Walkman, but says they're meeting targets.

Sony marketing manager Atsushi Kubota said his company wants to promote a wide range of music players in the Walkman lineup, including various types of disks and memory cards, not just the hard drive. Global Walkman sales still total 20 million a year, according to Sony, compared with more than 3.7 million iPods shipped worldwide so far.

"We want to push the advantages of each type of medium," Kubota said.

Sony has time to catch up to iPod, but iPod has a head start, says Kazuya Yamamoto, analyst at UFI Tsubasa Securities Co. in Tokyo.

"To come up with an innovative gadget that links well with software — that's something Sony should have done," Yamamoto said.

The iPod craze in Japan is happening even though Apple doesn't offer the music download service iTunes Music Store.

Apple will offer the Japanese equivalent of iTunes within the next year, with prices comparable to the 99 cents a tune it charges in the United States. Apple vice president Yoshiaki Sakito, a former Sony employee, said in an interview at Apple's Tokyo headquarters that's almost certain to change the music download industry in Japan by winning over those who now opt for cheaper CD rentals they can record onto MDs at home. Commercial downloads cost about \$2.30 a tune in Japan.

Recycled secrets

SHANGHAI, China — Scores of classified Chinese government documents have been found dumped at public recycling centers in the country's south, prompting alarm among officials in the secrecy-obsessed nation, a newspaper reported Thursday.

The papers were discovered in raids last month by police, commerce, and State Security Bureau officials, the Nanguo Metropolitan Daily reported.

Among the 97 documents found, three were labeled top secret and 19 highly classified, the paper said. It said all belonged to a single government department, which it didn't identify.

Over the course of the investigation, it was discovered that some government units in Haikou have a relatively lax attitude toward the secrecy of internal documents and freely toss out Communist Party, police and other official documents," the paper quoted an unidentified investigator as saying.

German road egged

BERLIN — A German superhighway was closed down to one lane for hours Thursday after a truck hauling 15 tons of eggs crashed, scattering its load and creating a slimy mess across the autobahn near Hannover.

The truck swerved to avoid a metal object in the road and hit a barrier at about 1 a.m., tipping the truck and causing the eggs, which flowed across the highway, police said.

The 43-year-old driver was injured and taken to a hospital, but was expected to be released later in the day.

Two of the three south-bound lanes were shut down as crews cleaned up the mess into Thursday afternoon. Police estimated the total damage at 100,000 euros, the equivalent of \$124,000.

From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Google shares take off in first day of trading

BY MATTHEW FORDAHL
The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Shares of Google Inc. surged nearly 22 percent in their market debut Thursday, culminating a unique and bumpy initial stock offering for the 6-year-old dot-com dreamed up in a college dorm room.

The search engine's stock started at \$100.01 on the Nasdaq Stock Market, \$15.01 higher than its \$85 initial offering price.

Within a few minutes of trading, Google was at \$103.42, with 127 million shares having changed hands.

The IPO price, set late Wednesday through an unorthodox auction that alienated many on Wall Street, cleared the way for the

stock to start trading under the symbol "GOOG."

Founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page opened trading on the Nasdaq, and Google began trading at midday.

Nasdaq officials said a delay in trading was standard for IPOs, and added that there were some technical issues as the Nasdaq matched bid and ask prices in the minutes leading up to trading.

The surge may indicate that many institutional investors sat out the initial offering, said Barry Randall, portfolio manager for the First American Technology Fund.

"There were a lot of institutional investors who were spooked by not only the initial auction scenar-



Snigh Maninder, a security worker at Google Inc., congratulates another worker arriving at company headquarters in Mountain View, Calif., Thursday, after shares of Google rose in their initial stock offering. The stock started at \$100.01 on the Nasdaq Stock Market, \$15.01 higher than its \$85 initial offering price.

io but also the missteps along the way," he said.

"I suspect many of them did regard it as a healthy business model, and now they have the ability to purchase the stock from the open market instead of the managers."

The \$85 initial share price was

short of Google's original expectation of \$108 to \$135 a share. It also came at the lowest end of Google's downward-revised range it issued Wednesday, when it also reduced the number of shares to be sold to 19.6 million from 25.7 million — a move expected to buoy prices.

The \$85 price values the world's most popular search engine at \$23.1 billion, more valuable than companies such as Amazon.com, with a market capitalization of \$16 billion, and Lucent Technologies, valued at \$13.5 billion, and nearly as much as General Motors' \$23.7 billion.

Rumsfeld ruminates on rules for launching U.S. missile defense

BY BRADLEY GRAHAM
The Washington Post

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Wednesday he is still working out the rules dictating when and under whose authority to fire a new system to protect the United States from missile attack, and awaiting a final assessment

about the system's readiness to begin operations.

The remarks by Rumsfeld and other senior defense officials at a conference on missile defense indicated that the decision to put the novel and politically controversial system on alert was still weeks away.

The timing is being watched closely by proponents and critics

of missile defense alike against the backdrop of the presidential campaign, in which the speed and cost of deployment have become issues. The first interceptor missile was loaded into a silo in Alaska last month, and five more are due for installation by mid-October.

President Bush declared last week that the system would be

come operational later this year, reaffirming a goal he set two years ago.

But the program has been plagued by a series of testing delays — most recently, this week's postponement of a critical flight test after the discovery of a faulty computer in the interceptor's booster.

Maj. Gen. John Holly, who is

overseeing development, said here Wednesday that postponement of the test would not necessarily delay start-up of the system.

"We've never set a prerequisite event prior to going on alert," he told reporters.

In a separate interview, Holly said he plans to submit a final readiness assessment by mid-September.

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Kerry fights attacks on his Vietnam record

BY RON FOURNIER
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Sen. John Kerry accused President Bush on Thursday of relying on front groups to challenge his record of valor in Vietnam, asserting, "He wants them to do his dirty work."

Fighting back, Kerry said if Bush wants to "have a debate about our service in Vietnam, here is my answer: 'Bring it on.'" Bush served stateside in the Texas Air National Guard during the war.

"Thirty years ago, official Navy reports documented my service in Vietnam and awarded me the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts," Kerry said in remarks to a firefighters convention.

"Thirty years ago, this was the plain truth. It still is. And I still carry the shrapnel in my leg from a wound in Vietnam."

Kerry received five medals for his service in Vietnam a generation ago, but his record has come under campaign challenge in television commercials aired by "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth," funded by supporters of the president.

Bush and the White House have refused to condemn the ads, despite calls to do so from Sen. John McCain, a Republican who is a former Vietnam prisoner of war, as well as from Democrats.

Senior Democrats, including some inside the presidential campaign, have urged Kerry to respond forcefully to the criticism, fearing that if left unanswered, it could undermine his claim as a war-tested veteran ready to assume command in an era of terrorism.

The election is Nov. 2.

In a rapid response to the Democrats' speech, Bush campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt said the charge "leveled by Senator Kerry is absolutely and completely false."



Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry gave a thumbs-up as he arrives Thursday at the International Association of Fire Fighters' 47th Biennial Convention in Boston. Kerry lashed back at recent attacks on his record in Vietnam.

"The Bush campaign has never and will never question John Kerry's service in Vietnam. The president has referred to John Kerry's service as noble service," the Bush spokesman said.

At the same time, neither the president nor any of his spokesmen has condemned the ads.

In addition to Kerry's speech before an audience of firefighters, his campaign released a new 30-second campaign commercial that features a former Green Beret saying the then-young Navy lieutenant saved his life under fire.

Recalling when his boat came under attack more than 30 years ago, Jim Rassmann says, "It blew me off the boat. All those Viet Cong were shooting at me. I ex-

pected I'd be shot. When he pulled me out of the river, he risked his life to save mine."

Kerry's remarks came as The Washington Post reported that records concerning a Vietnam veteran who claims in the anti-Kerry ad that the Massachusetts senator lied about being under fire was under constant attack himself during the same skirmish.

The newly obtained records of Larry Thurlow's medal citation show that he, like Kerry, won a Bronze Star in the engagement and that Thurlow's citation says he also was under attack, the Post reported.

In his speech, Kerry employed a wartime metaphor.

"More than 30 years ago I learned an im-

portant lesson. When you're under attack the best thing to do is turn your back into the attack. That's what I intend to do today."

Speaking of the organization airing the ads that challenge his war record, Kerry said, "Of course, this group isn't interested in the truth and they're not telling the truth..."

"But here's what you really need to know about them. They're funded by hundreds of thousands of dollars from a Republican contributor out of Texas. They're a front for the Bush campaign."

"And the fact that the President won't denounce what they're up to tells you everything you need to know. He wants them to do his dirty work."

Kerry said, "Of course, the president keeps telling people he would never question my service to our country. Instead, he watches as a Republican-funded attack group does just that."

Kerry's comments drew boisterous cheers from members of the union that had endorsed him last year at a time his candidacy was struggling.

Thurlow, like Kerry, commanded a Navy swift boat during Vietnam. He swore in an affidavit last month that Kerry was "not under fire" when he rescued Rassmann from the Bay of Pigs.

Thurlow's records, obtained by the Post under the Freedom of Information Act, include references to "enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire" directed at all five boats in the flotilla that day. In his Bronze Star citation, Thurlow is praised for helping a damaged swift boat "despite enemy bullets flying about him."

Nevertheless, a registered Republican, said he was angry with Kerry for anti-war ads aired after his return to the United States, especially his claim that U.S. troops committed war crimes with the knowledge of their officers up the chain of command.

Bush stumps in Wisconsin again

BY ALAN J. BORSUK
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

HUDSON, Wis. — Even the music playing as President Bush took the stage before hundreds of supporters at Lakefront Park here Wednesday afternoon was a song about the heartland.

If you were looking for a way to underscore the importance of the heartland of the nation, and Wisconsin in particular, in Bush's re-election campaign — and in the campaign of Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry, as well — you only had to observe the president on Wednesday.

Or you only needed to ask his close adviser, Karen Hughes. In an interview behind the scenes at the Hudson event, she described Wisconsin's role in the Nov. 2 election this way: "Very important, critical, crucial... It's hard to overemphasize it."

To win Wisconsin and its 10 electoral votes will take "a vigorous campaign, and we're certainly waging one of those," Hughes said.

One way to illustrate the role of Wisconsin in Bush's campaign and the strategy that he is taking here is to point out that the president has had only seven campaign bus trips so far and three of them have focused mostly on Wisconsin — a May 7 trip that included much of the southwestern part of the state, a July 14 trip from Waukegan to Fond du Lac to Green Bay and Weymouth.

Bush began his campaign day with a rally for several thousand people in Chippewa Falls on the parking lot of Kell Container Corp., which makes cardboard boxes.

His bus caravan then wound through the streets of Chippewa Falls, Menomonie, Spring Valley, River



President Bush on Wednesday holds up "W" signs at the Kell Container Corp. in Chippewa Falls, Wis. Bush also made a stop in Hudson, just over a month after his last visit to Wisconsin.

Falls and Hudson — and across lengthy rural stretches where horses appeared to be the only spectators.

Sticking almost entirely to his established stump speech, Bush asked the enthusiastic audiences in Chippewa Falls and Hudson to give him four more years because "we're getting the job done" a phrase he used frequently — but have more to do.

Bush also spotlighted the state of the economy, saying it was strong and getting stronger and that tax cuts were a key to why that was happening.

"Put somebody back in office who can get the job done," he said.

The president defended his decision to go to war against Iraq, saying that even though weapons of mass destruction were not found there, the world was better off with Saddam Hussein in prison and that Hussein would have continued to be a threat to the U.S. otherwise.

"Knowing what I know today, I would have made the same decision" to go to war, Bush said.

Accusations fly in Ore. over Nader's petitions

BY BRAD CAIN
The Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — Accusations of dirty tricks are rare in Oregon politics, but Ralph Nader's presidential campaign has sparked charges and countercharges with his campaign and backers of Democratic nominee Sen. John Kerry.

Union officials who support Kerry accused Nader's backers this week of engaging in widespread fraud and forgery in gathering signatures to place Nader on the Nov. 2 ballot in this battleground state.

The union also has warned nearly 60 of Nader's signature-gatherers that they could face a felony conviction and prison time for allegedly submitting fraudulent signatures.

"The evidence indicates a clear pattern of widespread signature fraud in the effort to put Nader on the ballot," union spokesman Mark Weiner said.

Nader's Oregon coordinator, Greg Kafoury, said one petition-gatherer was "badly shaken" and "stimulated" by two union members who knocked on her door and told her she was under investigation.

"We have been sabotaged and smeared, and now we have had our people bullied by people who knock on doors at night," Kafoury said. He said there is no intentional effort to turn in invalid signatures.

Kafoury said 30 of the campaign's 150 petition-carriers have quit because of the union's actions, but he said the Nader campaign still believes it will be able to meet Tuesday's deadline.

Nader has until Tuesday to collect them.

But as the deadline nears, the tension between his campaign and his opponents is growing.

Nuisance bear likes beer, pastry

The Associated Press

BAKER LAKE, Wash. — When state wildlife agents recently found a black bear passed out on the lawn of Baker Lake Resort, there were some clues scattered nearby — dozens of empty cans of beer.

The bear used his claws and teeth to puncture the cans in campers' coolers. And not just any cans — he appeared to favor one brand over another.

"He drank the Rainier and wouldn't drink the Busch beer," said Lisa Bronson, bookkeeper at the campground and cabins resort east of Mount Baker.

Fish and Wildlife enforcement Sgt. Bill Heineck said the bear did try one can of Busch, but ignored the rest. The bear then consumed about 36 cans of Rainier.

Agents finally lured the bear away, but it returned.

Agents then used a large, humane trap to capture it for relocation, baiting the trap with the usual: doughnuts, honey and, in this case, two open cans of Rainier.

New questions about Texas mom

7 adopted kids found abandoned in Nigerian orphanage

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Seven Texas children found abandoned at a Nigerian orphanage have leveled new accusations against the adoptive mother who left them there, claiming that she struck them with switches and a cane and had repeatedly threatened to take them to Africa if they ever told law officers about earlier abuse reports, child welfare officials say.

Child Protective Services officials have referred the new abuse complaints to authorities for an investigation. The Houston Police Department is investigating the matter, Sgt. Rose Terry said Wednesday.

The adoptive mother faces a custody hearing Aug. 26. The woman, identified by authorities as 47-year-old Mercury Liggins, is also facing a state investigation stemming from payments she re-

ceived to help care for the three boys and four girls, who range from 8 to 16 years old.

The children, suffering from disease and malnutrition, were discovered in late July in Ibadan, Nigeria, by a visiting Texas missionary. The missionary's San Antonio pastor notified House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and Sen. John Cornyn, who then contacted CPS and the U.S. State Department, along with the ambassador in Nigeria. The children were returned to Texas last week.

On Wednesday, Harris County CPS officials said they had investigated four abuse complaints against Liggins dating back to 1997. However, officials said they found no evidence of abuse in the family's Houston home.

A staff worker at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston filed at least one of the complaints, saying the children were underfed, unhappy and scared.

"The kids were always just telling us they were hungry," Mona Bates, a unit director at the club the children regularly attended, told the Houston Chronicle on Thursday's editions.

Child welfare officials received the latest complaint in September, one month before the mother took the children to Nigeria, where a relative of her fiancé lived. The children were enrolled in school and she returned to Houston about 30 days later.

She went to work in Iraq in April for Houston-based Halliburton's subsidiary KBR as a food services employee. But she quit in July.

When payment for the children's tuition stopped, they were removed from school. Nigerian child-protection authorities who found the children malnourished and sick inside a wooden shack moved them to the orphanage in late July.

Four teenage girls were adopted from Houston in 1996, followed by a set of three boys from Dallas in 2001.

Liggins had been receiving more than \$500 a month for each of the seven children. Payments for the children adopted in Houston stopped in March when Liggins told state officials that a grandmother in Houston would be caring for them. But the Dallas CPS office continued sending her money for the siblings adopted there.

The Dallas children's birth mother said Wednesday she wants the boys back.

"They know they were taken from me," said LaQuinta Teague, 27, who lost the trio six years ago when she went to prison for assaulting a police officer. "It wasn't like I wanted them to go. I know they want to be back home."

Hollywood composer dead at 82

LOS ANGELES — Film composer Elmer Bernstein, who created a brawny, big-sky theme for "The Magnificent Seven," nerve-jangling jazz for "The Man With the Golden Arm" and heart-rending grade notes for "To Kill a Mockingbird," has died.

Bernstein, whose prolific career spanned seven decades and earned him 14 Academy Award nominations, an Oscar win and an Emmy Award, died in his sleep at his Ojai home Wednesday, said his publicist, Cathy Mouton. He was 82.

He scored such movie classics as "The Ten Commandments," "The Magnificent Seven," "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "True Grit," not to mention comedies like "National Lampoon's Animal House," "Airplane!" and "Ghostbusters."

Lee case worries journalism advocates

WASHINGTON — A judge's decision to punish five reporters for refusing to identify their sources for stories about a former nuclear scientist once suspected of spying threatens to chill vital newsgathering at a time of increased government secrecy, advocates say.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson on Wednesday held the reporters in contempt and fined each of them \$500 a day until they reveal their source. He said the information was needed for the former scientist, Wen Ho Lee, to litigate his privacy lawsuit against government officials.

Jackson said the fines would be suspended pending expected appeals.

"The government is trying to keep more and more secrets all the time, and journalists are working

harder to uncover those secrets. Given the terrorism climate, all this has come to a head," said Lucy Dalglis, executive director of the Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press.

Convicted killer executed in Virginia

JARRATT, Va. — A man who pleaded guilty to killing three neighbors in a long-running dispute over a shared driveway was executed Wednesday night.

James Bryant Hudson, 57, died by lethal injection at the Greensville Correctional Center.

Hudson pleaded guilty to shooting brothers Walter Stanley Cole, 56, and Thomas Wesley Cole, 64, and the latter's wife, Patsy Ayers Cole, 64, outside their Halifax County home in July 2002.

Charges filed in missing child case

MIAMI — Foster child Rilya Wilson was locked in a cage, tied to her bed and shut in a small room by her caretakers in the months before she vanished and caseworkers failed to notice, prosecutors said.

They charged Geraldyn Graham, 58, and Pamela Graham, 39, with abusing 4-year-old Rilya, who authorities believe vanished in 2001 while in Pamela Graham's care. Her whereabouts remain unknown and authorities have said she is feared dead.

The case rocked the Florida Department of Children & Families, which had taken Rilya from her homeless, crack-addicted mother.

State workers didn't realize she was gone until April 2002 because they hadn't made required visits to check on her for at least 15 months.

From The Associated Press

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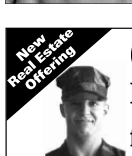
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In our hands

FACES 'N' PLACES

Sounds of war



Members of Major Rene Brown's One Voice, One Sound Gospel Choir perform on a Baghdad rooftop in May. Despite heavy fighting nearby, the choir kept singing as they were filmed by George Gittoes for his documentary "Soundtrack to War." Gittoes spent four months with American soldiers who shared with him the role music plays in their survival during the war in Iraq.

AP

Documentary shows how music helped soldiers in Iraq

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER
The Associated Press

The images captured in "VH1 News Presents: Soundtrack to War," combines the use of music by America's soldiers and the unsettling pictures of war.

A group of soldiers stand on a rooftop, singing gospel music.

Suddenly, bombs explode. Nearby, black smoke rises.

A tank crew cranks up a heavy metal song to gear up for combat.

Using personal testimonies, the one-hour documentary examines the soldiers' use of music for inspiration, motivation and mourning. The result: a unique look at youth in war.

"Soundtrack to War," which aired Wednesday in the states, follows soldiers of the Army's 1st Armored Division during their 15-month deployment in Iraq from April 2003 to July 2004, one of the military's longest deployments since Vietnam.

"They couldn't do it without their music. They couldn't get through it without it," Australian filmmaker George Gittoes says.

Gittoes, who directed this documentary, relies on the soldiers to tell their own story as songs — including ones written by the soldiers — push the documentary along.

The approach is effective, giving viewers a sense of who these soldiers are and what they face.

Several scenes in Gittoes' film were featured in Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11." But unlike Moore's film, "Soundtrack to War" centers on the soldiers' personal feelings rather than their political ones.

While soldiers are typically cautious with their comments, they open up to Gittoes about music. And as they do, they talk about their war experiences.

The documentary begins with soldiers confiding how various songs — from Drowning Pool's "Let the Bodies Hit the Floor" to Mystikal's "Round Out the Tank" — help psyche them up before battle.

One soldier explains why Drowning Pool's song was the motto for his tank

crew during battles. Another tells how rapper Tupac Shakur's songs were funneled through headsets in a M-1 Abrams tank as it rolled from Kuwait into Iraq at the start of the war, and then changed to the Triple 6 Mafia when they hit the streets of Baghdad.

In one scene, a soldier talks about his affinity for punk rock and how few in his unit like the music. He tells Gittoes how there was another soldier he bonded with over the music — one who was later killed by a roadside bomb.

In another scene, Pfc. Yona Hagos raps about being "like a biological weapon" and surviving enemy gunfire. In the credits, viewers learn he was later hit with a rocket-propelled grenade.

"The song is about trying to survive," Hagos told The Associated Press. "I'm trying to get over it. It's not something you just get over in a few days or a few months."

In one of the film's most memorable segments, a scene opens with soldiers on patrol in Baghdad when a car bomb explodes, killing a family in a car. In the back seat, a child's toys are scattered with blood. The scene moves to two soldiers —

Spc. Joshua Revak and Sgt. Trenton Dull — sitting near a tank, strumming acoustic guitars. They explain how they became friends during the war, and wrote a song together to honor fallen comrades.

"No other American sitting back in America can ever come close to understanding what a soldier goes through on the streets of Baghdad," Revak says.

Later in the film, Gittoes returns to Revak.

"We've lost a lot of brothers. It gets tougher every day," he says. "The only way I've been able to deal with that is to write music."

Spc. Janel Daniels is yet another soldier who writes songs to cope.

"All you have is destruction around you. You have no idea what's about to happen. It's so hard with everything going on. Music is vital out there," Daniels told the AP.

In the film's final scenes, there's a message of hope as three young soldiers — all from different ethnic backgrounds — rap about their experiences in Iraq.

"Music," Spc. Jaimon Tippins, one of the trio, says in the film, "has a lot to do with uniting us out here."

Toronto film festival lineup announced

"Trauma," a twisting flick starring Colin Firth, is one of several movies to open next month at the Toronto International Film Festival.

In the Marc Evans film, Firth awakens from a coma after a car crash to learn his wife was killed. Or was she? Other films to make their world or North American premieres at the Sept. 9-18 festival include German director Hendrik Holzman's "Off Beat," about a melancholy young man who meets the woman who has been appearing in his dreams.

From the United States comes Michael Skolnick's "On the Outs," about a trio of Latino teens from New Jersey whose lives intersect in juvenile detention.

Pete Travis' British-Irish production "Omagh" examines the 1998 IRA bombing of the small Irish town.

Michael Winterbottom of Britain brings his "9 Songs," which alternates between live music performances and a London couple's explicit sexcapades.



Firth

Organizers hope to schedule more than 300 films from 50 countries on 21 screens during the two-week event.

The world premiere of Istvan Szabo's "Being Julia," starring Annette Bening and Jeremy Irons, will open the festival. Bening plays a stage actress in London's West End seeking revenge on a manipulative lover in the film, adapted from Somerset Maugham's novel "Theatre."

A special feature category, "South Africa: 10 Years Later," will focus on films from the country, which held its first free elections in 1994 after the collapse of apartheid.

New musical opening off-Broadway

Transport Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor" to post-Vietnam War Texas, add Gary Sandy of the vintage television sitcom "WKRP in Cincinnati" as well as the Red Clay Ramblers, and you will get "Lone Star Love," a new off-Broadway musical, opening in December.

The 58-year-old Sandy portrays Frank Ford, a husband of one of those merry wives, it was announced Tuesday. "Lone Star Love" has been loosely adapted from the Bard by John L. Haber, with music and lyrics by Jack Herick. Michael Bogdanov (the show's director), Bland Simpson and Tommy Thompson also have made contributions. "Lone Star Love" opens Dec. 8 at a new off-Broadway

space, the Cooper Cohen Amas Musical Theatre. Preview performances begin Nov. 21.

Cruise won't comment on vote

Tom Cruise says he respects the right of entertainers to participate in political campaigning, but his vote in the upcoming presidential election will remain private.

During a news conference in Mexico's capital Monday to promote the local release of "Collateral," Cruise was asked his preference when it comes to President Bush and Democratic nominee John Kerry.

"Politics is something that is very personal to me," Cruise said. "I am not going to comment publicly [about] who I'm going to vote for. ... I don't want what I say to become a political football."

"But I do believe and I encourage people to go out and study the issues, get beyond the propaganda," he said.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Cruise

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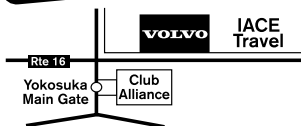
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YOUR MONEY

Z-Coil shoes spring forward to consumers

BY DAN THANH DAN

The Baltimore Sun

If Al Gallegos has his way, every man, woman and child will one day walk with a spring in their steps and a satisfied smile on their faces.

The spring will come attached to the heel of a strange, space age-looking shoe Gallegos wants to sell you. And the smile, well, that will come once you put on the shoe, says the 73-year-old inventor of the Z-Coil, line of pain-relief footwear.

Z-Coils' first hit the shelves four years ago in New Mexico and since then, the shoes have become something of a cult item. They're only sold through authorized dealers, and targeted toward people with painful leg, foot and back problems. About 350,000 pairs of the shoes have been sold to date, a relative drop in the footwear market.

So worry not, Reebok and Nike. At least for now.

But at last count, there were 227 Z-Coil dealers in 39 states, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Canada, and the company's goal is to open 1,000 stores. The shoes have been featured in major publications, studied by two research laboratories and recommended by the Arthritis Foundation's magazine.

"It's a dream come true after such a long time and so much work," says Gallegos. "We knew our product was good, but we didn't think people would cotton to it the way that they have. When I visit these stores, people hug me up and tell me what a huge difference my shoes have made in their

lives. I'm constantly surprised when I'm traveling around and I see people wearing them.

"I just want to get a shoe on the next person and make them feel good," says Gallegos, a distance runner who claims to spring a 5 1/2-minute mile in his Z-Coils.

To make it simple for Z-Coil newbies: Yes. They are funny-looking. But they come in different styles including sandals, sneakers, hiking boots, clogs or work boots.

Yes. They do make you bounce. Like walking on a trampoline.

No. They can't make you feel like you're making the shoe prettier. Well, yes, they can.

(There is a closed-heel boot, with a steel toe, for construction workers who don't want the steel spring to accidentally catch the rung of a ladder.) Covering the coil lessens its ability to compress and expand, allowing it to absorb the impact on your body as you walk, run or hike.

No. They don't do any advertising. Z-Coils are sold by word-of-mouth and dealers will often go to hospital and nursing falls to demonstrate the shoes for potential customers.

Yes. They are a bit pricey, between \$139.95 to \$179.95 depending on the style. But, really, what price, pain? Or rather, what pain-free? An estimated 75 percent of Americans will experience foot health problems of varying degrees of severity at one time or another in their lives, according to the American Podiatric Medical Association.

Gallegos and Z-Coil devotees say the footwear helps alleviate



THE BALTIMORE SUN, LLOYD FOX/ATVP

Al Gallegos is the founder and chairman of the board of Z-Coil. Gallegos is the inventor of the shoe with the spring in the heel. A new Z-Coil store had its grand opening last month in Laurel, Md.

fering from such ailments as heel spurs and plantar fasciitis, a painful inflammation to the bottom of the foot. Additionally, Gallegos says, sufferers of lower back pain, arthritis and knee problems have also found relief with the shoe.

He himself has suffered from various foot, knee and back pains and first thought of using springs in his shoes while out running his typical seven miles one day. His thought was that every car, from economy to luxury vehicles, uses shock absorbers to create a bounting

while passengers sit smoothly in their seats. Why not use the same simple technology in footwear? What he came up with was a 3-inch conical coil steel spring, a rigid orthotic mold to support the arch and plenty of cushioning to surround the foot. The longtime shoe store owner then had a local butcher cut the soles of some shoes and then glued the coil to the heel.

The end product looked like one of Wile E. Coyote's hare-brained schemes to catch the elusive Road Runner.

Manufacturers and the shoe industry reacted to it in similar fashion. Some laughed. Some derided the effort. Many doubted its success. It took Gallegos five years to get a patent for the idea and then another couple years, with his son, Andres, to find a manufacturer to make the shoes.

Last year, the privately-held company posted net record sales of \$6.3 million and net income of \$1.2 million.

"It's really taking off," Gallegos said. "They make people feel good."

Deborah Brackens, a nurse for 26 years, says the shoe has eased her aches and pains.

"I have osteoarthritis," says Brackens. "If you're a nurse, you're walking on concrete floor or linoleum all day. By the end of the day, your feet are tired and you're tired. For me, they lessen the pain on my hips. If you're trying to preserve your bones and joints, these are great."

It might be awhile before the word gets out. A spokesperson at the giant shoe retailer Nike Inc. said they've never heard of Z-Coils.

That's fine by Gallegos and company. His shoes are popular among police officers, nurses, retailers and real estate agents — anyone who works on their feet — and there are plenty of those customers around.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

SP-500	High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD SP-500
10,184	10,230.47	10,184	Dow Jones Industrials	10,083.15	+119.32	+1.11	+3.57
3,212.45	2,665.50	3,212.45	Dow Jones Transportation	3,094.47	+49.87	+1.61	+2.51
286.15	234.84	286.15	Dow Jones Utilities	286.25	+1.14	+0.40	+0.57
6,798.12	5,533.35	6,798.12	NASDAQ Composite	5,386.73	+66.48	+1.05	+8.14
956.65	956.65	956.65	Dow Jones Health Care	956.65	+0.00	0.00	0.00
2,153.83	1,786.93	2,153.83	NASDAQ Composite	1,831.37	+38.12	+2.01	+5.89
1,153.23	983.57	1,153.23	S&P 500	1,095.17	+13.46	+1.24	+1.51
518.49	497.30	518.49	S&P 500	509.33	+8.21	+1.60	+1.12
596.42	471.92	596.42	Russell 2000	541.61	+21.19	+2.75	+0.65
11,717.1	11,510.91	11,717.1	D. Wilshire 2000	10,633.87	+13.32	+1.27	+0.81

NYSE

Most Active (\$1 OR MORE)				Most Active (\$1 OR MORE)				Most Active (\$1 OR MORE)			
Name	Vol	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	Last	Chg
Lucent	508736	3.14	+2.1	Nasdaq100	1031258	33.83	+5.9	Apple/MSFT	670406	16.16	+8.9
North H	248641	3.60	+2.1	SPDR	418884	110.03	+1.12	SPDR	670999	22.22	+7.1
Bank	1012612	11.00	+0.00	Bank	1012612	11.00	+0.00	Bank	1012612	11.00	+0.00
HewlettP	1785718	17.53	+0.17	Goldman	633488	188.00	+2.26	Microsoft	57788	27.46	+0.41
GenElec	131728	37.14	+0.6	DIA DM	59989	101.22	+1.82	Google	405808	10.51	+2.3
EMC Co	146087	10.49	+5.9	SP Fict	42276	28.18	+0.41	SanDisk	402374	3.76	+2.3
Bank	1012612	11.00	+0.00	Bank	1012612	11.00	+0.00	Bank	1012612	11.00	+0.00
Yield	125159	19.81	+0.8	Nabors	27593	42.29	+3.9	USJPN	233983	3.24	+1.3
DeKalb	135147	4.07	+8.1	Ivaca	25771	21.89	+2.7	Yahoo	211545	28.48	+1.4
Bank	1012612	11.00	+0.00	Bank	1012612	11.00	+0.00	Bank	1012612	11.00	+0.00

AMEX

ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)		
Vol (00)	Last	Chg
670406	16.16	+0.09
607999	22.22	+0.71
588137	18.99	+0.31
537008	27.46	+0.41
405089	10.51	+0.23
402374	3.76	+0.23
338010	2.16	-0.08
233903	3.24	+0.13
221545	28.48	+0.14
203000	19.78	+0.13

NASDAQ

L FUNDS			YTD
NAV	Chg.	%Ret	
35.53	+38		+2
47.35	+1.11		-5
26.03	+35		-2
38.93	+48		-4
17.70	+21		+3
15.47	+11		-3
28.96	+55		-6
20.13	+26		-6
11.12	-01		+2
30.07	+27		-4
27.52	+37		-3
26.06	+31		+1

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	107.90
Japanese yen (Aug. 20)	112.90
S. Korean won (Aug. 19)	\$1,260.1
British pound	\$1.88
Commercial rates	0.3770
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$1.849
Canada (Dollar)	\$1.306
Denmark (Krone)	6.0299
Egypt (Pound)	6.2301
Euro	\$1.2324
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.799
Hungary (Forint)	20.604
Island (Krona)	13.2
Israel (Shekel)	4.931
Japan (Yen)	109.34
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Malaysia (Ringgit)	1.1826
Philippines (Peso)	55.75
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.7121
South Africa (Rand)	13.62
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2488
Thailand (Baht)	53.7681
United States (Dollar)	1.47058800

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interest rates indexed for reference to the buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the dollar-to-euro.)

NEW YORK MERCER	\$404.30
Gold	\$68.3
Silver	\$6.83

PRECIOUS METALS

NEW YORK MERCER	\$404.30
Gold	\$68.3
Silver	\$6.83

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.13
3-month bill	2.82
30-year bond	5.25
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com	

Consolidation pros, cons

CRS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Most recent college graduates still are years away from having to start repaying their student loans.

But before you put student loan payments into your budget and before punting over your debt — weigh the pros and cons of consolidating your loan. So writes Brian O'Connell in his new book, "Free Yourself From Student Loan Debt."

The pros of consolidation:

- Fixed interest rates.
- Immediate debt relief.
- Easy payments.
- Payment incentives.
- Prepay. Many lenders allow

you to pay off your loan early — without penalties.

■ Tax-deductibility.

Cons of consolidation:

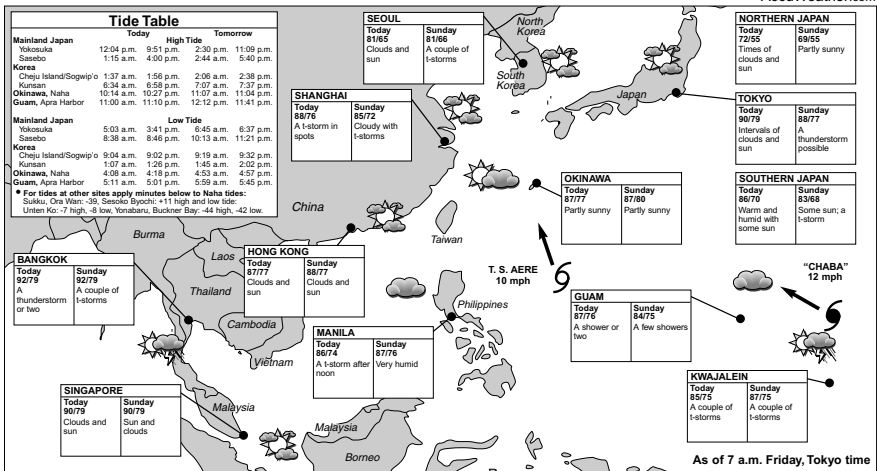
- Long-term cost. Although your monthly payments are lower, you make more of them, and over a longer period of time.
- Loss of privileges. You may not be able to defer payment, or to cancel your loan.
- Fixed interest rates. If interest rates decline, you're stuck with the rate you consolidated under.

■ No grace period. Many consolidated loans require you to start paying as soon as your consolidation application is processed.

• SPORTS

[illegible]

The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Monday: Thunder showers, high 84, low 73.
Tuesday: Thunder showers, high 83, low 71.

KADENA

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 81, low 64.
Tuesday: Thunder showers, high 88, low 81.

SEOUL

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 81, low 64.
Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 80, low 67.

MANILA

Monday: Showers, high 87, low 75.
Tuesday: Showers, high 87, low 76.

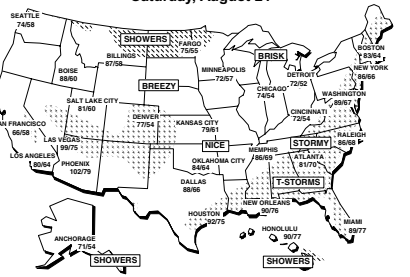
HAGATNA

Monday: Showers, high 84, low 75.
Tuesday: Showers, high 84, low 75.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	83/59	Los Angeles	80/63
Amarillo	79/56	Little Rock	93/71
Anchorage	71/57	Louisville	93/71
Ashville	56/63	Miami	91/79
Baltimore	89/69	Milwaukee	69/55
Birmingham	95/71	Nashville	93/70
Bismarck	80/39	New York	84/74
Boise	89/64	Omaha	73/53
Boston	85/68	Orlando	91/74
Brownsville	96/79	Philadelphia	86/72
Buffalo	74/58	Phoenix	96/77
Burlington	80/57	Pittsburgh	81/66
Charleston, SC	92/74	Portland, OR	84/62
Charlotte	91/68	Portland, ME	78/61
Cleveland	77/62	Salt Lake City	81/61
Columbus, OH	87/66	St. Louis	87/67
Duluth	67/42	San Antonio	96/74
El Paso	91/70	San Diego	75/65
Hartford	83/67	San Juan	91/77
Helena	81/54	Tampa	91/77
Indianapolis	85/66	Tulsa	85/69
Jacksonville	93/73	Washington	90/73
Kansas City	75/60	Wichita	76/59

Saturday, August 21



U.S. Extended Forecast

A cold front will continue to push eastward on Saturday, bringing showers and thunderstorms to many areas along the Eastern Seaboard and Gulf Coast states. Afternoon showers and thunderstorms will continue in portions of the Rocky Mountains. Many areas in the Midwestern states will have a partly to mostly sunny sky on Saturday as high pressure moves into the region. Another storm system will provide some showers for the Pacific Northwest on Sunday. Showers and thunderstorms are also possible in some areas of the Rocky Mountains, especially in the afternoon. Coastal areas in the Southeast could get a shower or thunderstorm due to a stationary front.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	92/79	Iwakuni	86/72
Beijing	82/68	Kadena AB	87/77
Camp Casey	78/61	Kansan AB	80/65
Christchurch	45/24	Kwajalein	85/75
Diego Garcia	82/75	Manila	87/74
Hagatna	87/76	Masawa AB	76/60
Hanoi	89/78	Osan	80/63
Hong Kong	87/77	Perth	63/47
Honolulu	90/77	Pusan	81/66
		Sasebo NB	85/72
		Sapporo	72/55
		Seoul	81/65
		Shanghai	88/76
		Shanghai	88/76
		Singapore	90/79
		Sydney	70/54
		Taegu	80/63
		Taipei	90/74
		Tokyo	90/79

Saturday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	93/78	Budapest	85/51
Athens	97/80	Buenos Aires	54/39
Auckland	54/43	Cairo	100/71
Baghdad	110/77	Cancun	96/73
Barcelona	87/72	Cape Town	68/47
Berlin	73/60	Geneva	63/51
Bermuda	85/73	Istanbul	86/69
Brussels	63/44	Johannesburg	71/46
		Moscow	86/63
		Nairobi	97/60
		New Delhi	89/70
		Oslo	69/44
		Paris	66/57
		Rio de Janeiro	81/72
		St. Petersburg	74/57
		Stockholm	67/50
		Warsaw	74/49



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Ed the ripper

OR ROSEBURG — A retired pastor reclaimed his title as world champion phone book ripper by tearing through 39 Portland white page directories in three minutes.

About 100 people watched Saturday as Ed Charon, 69, ripped the 1,004-page books in half during the exhibition at the Roseburg Valley Mall.

After the first 60 seconds, Charon had already ripped through 16 phone books, three shy of the number he tore through two years ago when he originally set the world's record.

He'd almost finished ripping the 40th volume when time expired and the audience erupted in applause.

"Oh, I wanted 40," Charon said. "I wonder how long 39 will stand up."

Ducks in love

AK ANCHORAGE — Ten male and seven female Steller's eiders were collected from the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands in 2003 and installed in a large outdoor pen at the Seward center as part of a federally funded captive breeding program.

To help get the ducks in the mood this spring, their 25-foot-by-60-foot pen was converted into something more cozy, with tundra grasses, moss, pebbles, driftwood and natural barriers for increased privacy.

Then, the researchers watched and waited.

"We saw courtship behavior, such as mating displays including head throws, bill lifts — typical eider mating behavior that we know of from the wild," said Tuula Holmlen, the center's eider program manager.

In the end, the males apparently were a bit shy. No olive-colored eggs were produced.

"I would say that the females were more ready than the males," said Heidi Weingartz, the center's avian curator. "If it was up to the girls, there would be a lot more babies around."

Mystery illness

OH PUT-IN-BAY — A mysterious illness on Lake Erie's South Bass Island has sickened dozens of tourists and residents, baffling health officials who are searching for a connection.

In the past two weeks, the Ottawa County Health Department has documented 78 cases and is investigating more than 90 other claims, said Director Nancy Osborn.

"We're still looking for the link," Osborn said.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has ordered a winery and a bar to stop using their septic systems after finding wells at the sites tested positive for E. coli, said spokeswoman Diana Perce.

She cautioned there is no known connection between the illnesses and the businesses, and added some people who became sick did not visit either business.

King statue vandalized

TX AUSTIN — Vandalism at the statue of slain civil

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. on the University of Texas campus was captured on a security camera and authorities are looking for two men in connection with the attack.

The statue on the East Mall near the UT Tower was spray-painted over the weekend. It was the second act of vandalism at the statue in 19 months.

"The statue of Doctor King is a symbol of the university's commitment to serve all Texans, regardless of race, ethnicity or income," UT President Larry Faulkner wrote in an e-mail Monday to staff and students. "The two individuals who attacked the statue in darkness only reinforce that commitment."

Two die in chase

GA SAVANNAH — A high-speed chase that covered 76 miles turned deadly when Georgia state troopers used a ramming technique to spin the fleeing vehicle off the highway, killing the driver and her teenager passenger.

The fatal crash ended the Interstate 95 chase Tuesday that started in South Carolina and crossed into coastal Georgia, with speeds reaching 105 mph.



Averting catastrophe

Bowling Green, Ky., fire department Capt. Levy Davis uses oxygen to revive a cat as one of her kittens watches after they were rescued from a house fire Tuesday. Firefighters rescued three cats from the blaze that gutted a home. All three animals were taken to the Bowling Green/Warren County Humane Society.

The driver, identified as 21-year-old Katie Sharp of Holly Hill, Fla., started fleeing when Colleton County sheriff's deputies tried to stop her for speeding at 86 mph in a 70 mph zone, said sheriff's Capt. Kent Tisdale.

The Georgia State Patrol took up the chase when the speeding Nissan Pathfinder crossed the state line near Savannah.

A pursuing trooper tried to stop the vehicle using a tactical ramming maneuver, steering the patrol car's front bumper into the fleeing vehicle behind its rear wheels, said Sgt. Chad Riner of the Georgia State Patrol.

The Pathfinder spun off the interstate and struck a tree. Sharp and her passenger, Garrett Gabe, 17, of Pennsylvania, died instantly, Riner said.

Disabled residents sue

MI DETROIT — Attorneys for five disabled residents filed a lawsuit Tuesday claiming the city's failure to fix broken wheelchair lifts on its buses constitutes discrimination.

The federal lawsuit says the city Transportation Department frequently uses buses without working lifts, and asks the court to compel the city to inspect, maintain and repair bus wheelchair lifts.

The city had not been served with the suit as of Tuesday evening, but city attorney Ruth Carter said officials look forward to resolving the issue for the benefit of all bus riders and the city.

Dying wish fulfilled

CT ROCKY HILL — As he lay dying of esophageal cancer, 72-year-old Robert Guillemette had one last wish — to be reunited with his brother, whom he had not seen since 1990.

Guillemette's family did everything they could to make the wish come true. They spent months making fruitless phone calls and Internet searches looking for any trace of Raymond Guillemette.

A newspaper report turned out to offer hope.

Rich Kunze, a nurse at the State Veterans' Hospital in Rocky Hill, saw an article in the Record-Journal of Meriden about the family's effort, and suspected he knew where the lost relative was — at the adjoining veterans' home.

The resident was Raymond Guillemette. The brothers were reunited Tuesday.

"We've been looking for you for a long time," said Guillemette's sister, Theresa Richards, 75, as she hugged Guillemette and choked back tears. "It was quite an ordeal, but it was worth it."

Bonus for better tests

ID BOISE — A state education committee is considering paying teachers a bonus if students improve their test scores.

Ideas discussed at a brainstorming session included cash awards for teachers or entire schools whose students show improvement on standardized tests.

Committee members say they'll seek legislative approval of a pay-for-performance pilot program.



That's my baby

A female bonobo, or pygmy chimpanzee, named Lana holds her baby Tuesday, at the San Diego Zoo in San Diego. The baby, born Sunday, is Lana's third offspring.



Go, Granny, go

Ken Slater, right, helps Helen Self onto Dwayne Fowler's Harley-Davidson in Missoula, Mont. Self, who turned 95 on Tuesday, celebrated her birthday with a ride on the motorcycle.



Capitol improvement Workers Walter Portillo, right, and Jose Taboada guide a slab of marble stone as it is removed from the Capitol in Richmond, Va., on Wednesday. The Capitol is undergoing a three-year renovation project. It will take about three weeks to remove all the steps.



Git along, ol' paint Colton Hokana, 5, of Columbia, S.D., tries to get his miniature paint, Oreo George, to cooperate Monday during the Open Youth Horse Show at the Brown County Fair in Aberdeen, S.D.



Flush with success Scott Wade of Sorento, Ill., chases his daughter Alex, 11, on motorized commodes during the toilet bowl races at the Illinois State Fair on Tuesday. The races are in The Wonderful World of Sports area at the fair.



Planning ahead Ahmad Rashed, of Rashed's Garden Center in Brattleboro, Vt., pots freshly planted poinsettia cuttings in his greenhouse. Rashed says that the plants are finicky and difficult to grow, requiring much care over the months before they are ready to grace holiday homes.



Ribbon time Mark Abell, of Jackson, Ohio, front, judges the Advanced English Pleasure Riding Class at the Lake County Fair on Tuesday in Cleveland.

Big response to jobs

CA Hundreds of thousands of applicants are competing for 3,000 temporary jobs the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, hoping for lucrative wages in an otherwise weak labor market.

The jobs, which pay \$20 to \$28 an hour, were created to handle a record amount of cargo coming through both ports.

A Long Beach post office spokesman said Tuesday that a conservative estimate put the number of mailed-in applications at 220,000 to 250,000. The number may have been inflated by applicants sending in more than one each, though officials have said people who do so would be rejected.

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union asked a mediator whether the hiring process could be delayed to ensure that everything runs smoothly, but the mediator ordered the union and West Coast shipping lines to proceed with their lottery and begin picking the 3,000 new dockworkers Thursday, as planned.

Offensive newsletter suit

ME PORTLAND — The Maine Human Rights Commission has sided with two postal carriers who say a Christian-themed column in a union newsletter amounts to religious discrimination.

The pair targeted a monthly column entitled "Directions From God's Handbook" in a monthly newsletter distributed to more than 100,000 members of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

One recent column urged readers to bring the "good news of Christ's salvation to non-Christians," and another said God's people are those who accept Jesus.

Dick Springer of Portland, who describes himself as a "nonbeliever," said the column is offensive to him. "The organization takes my money and uses it to proselytize for religious beliefs which are not mine," he told Maine Public Radio.

Springer's co-worker, Eric Coperman of Cape Elizabeth, who is Jewish, said the Christian proselytizing smacks of anti-Semitism.

Wrong bus stop

TX BROWNSVILLE — A 6-year-old girl had to get a ride home with police after she was mistakenly dropped off at the wrong bus stop.

Ariadne Galvan, a second-grader at Ortiz Elementary, was dropped off by a Brownsville school bus about two miles from her home.

Ariadne was about to cross a busy highway when a resident saw her and called police after school Monday.

She was wearing an identification tag around her neck that listed her address.

The child's mother, Sandy Galvan, said she was perplexed that her child had been dropped off at the wrong stop, considering she was wearing the required identification information.

Brownsville school district spokeswoman Drue Brown said the case is under investigation. Officials said the bus driver was a substitute driver who wasn't familiar with the stops.

Land dispute over

KA KANSAS CITY — The Wyandotte Nation has ended its pursuit of more than 19,000 acres of industrial land in Kansas City.

The tribe announced that it would not appeal a federal judge's decision to dismiss its claim.

The Wyandottes sued for the land in 2002, citing tribal treaties from the 1800s. The move was part of an effort to build a casino in Wyandotte County. The judge ruled the tribe had waited too long to press its claim.

Ex-wife spoils robbery

OH MIDDLETOWN — A suspected bank robber's getaway was abruptly cut short by an unusual witness — his ex-wife, authorities said.

Police accuse Daniel Waggoner, 31, of robbing a bank branch in a Kroger grocery store Tuesday. Police and witnesses said he passed a note demanding money, received cash from tellers and fled.

Detective Frank Hensley said Waggoner's ex-wife later saw him driving on State Route 122, and wondered what he was doing in Middletown. When the woman reached the Kroger, she learned that the bank branch was closed because of the robbery.

She went to another branch and told the teller that her ex-husband had been in Middletown shortly after the robbery and that he had gotten out of prison a year ago after serving a sentence for bank robbery.

Prowling around town

NY NEW YORK — Dressed in a tuxedo, Simba sat at the front of one of Manhattan's newest dining establishments and nodded at people who greeted him.

He yawned, began to roll on the floor and lick his paws.

That's acceptable behavior at the Meow Mix Cafe, a new eatery designed especially for cats and their human owners.

Simba, an 8-month-old kitten, was joined by about two dozen other tabbies, Persians and Burmese for a feast at Tuesday's grand opening of the cafe, which is owned by the Meow Mix Company, a Secaucus, N.J.-based cat food maker.

"Why not take your cat out for dinner?" asked Simba's owner, Leah Thompson, 19. "There's always things for dogs, but never cats."

Suicide ends crime spree

FL TAMPA — Robert Able started his crime odyssey Monday morning by shooting his ailing girlfriend, once in the head and once in her heart.

Then he lured a 12-year-old neighborhood girl into his home and raped her.

Less than 24 hours later, as police searched the city for him, Able shot himself in the head with the same gun. He died inside a pickup truck at the body shop where he has worked for the past 16 years.

Police say Able apparently caved in to the pressures of mounting debt and his girlfriend's health troubles.

Stories and photos from wire services

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



DICK LOCHER/Tribune Media Services



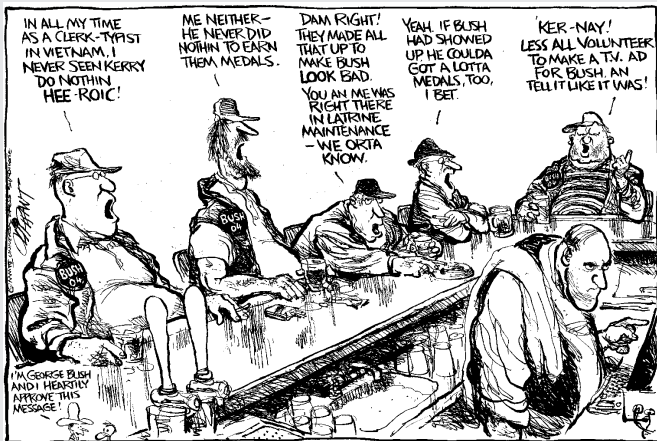
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Horoscope

The Scorpio moon gives intensity to the day, connecting us more strongly to our subconscious desires. The atmosphere is more mysterious and more vivid all at once — as though the subtle gestures we normally take for granted are now telling a whole story that defies logic and somehow doesn't fit in with the big picture. Life is a puzzle.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 21). Your charisma is turned up this year, and you're able to charm your way into terrific situations. Seek quality people in the next few weeks — one of your new friends could be a love interest who becomes part of a solid, long-term relationship. Your involvement in public causes forwards your goals this winter. Love signs are Scorpio and Aquarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're ready to move, but slower, less determined people are in your way. Instead of going around them, negotiate your way through. It's important to take the proper channels on your way and grease the right palms, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Travel, writing and communication are your strengths — you take on such endeavors like a pro! Continue in your purposefulness, and you'll soon advance to that coveted position you've been aiming toward for years.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). An element of fun has been conspicuously missing from the past few days, and now is your chance to re-introduce yourself to the idea. Spontaneous decisions are the best. Get outside, where you'll feel vital.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll prepare, organize and plan until there's nothing left to do but jump in. Then, of course, nothing goes as predicted, but at least you're ready to make the most of whatever complications arise. Pay homage to elders.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're definitely in the mood for sensory delights and will appreciate the colors, textures, sights and sounds of even the most ordinary of occur-

rences. Your love of the sensual will lead to advances in your artistry and talent.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Strengthen relationships by being aware of yourself as a spiritual being — your soul has needs that can be

beautifully met by others on a similar quest. By the same token, your spirit can be bruised by an oppressive force.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's an opportunity to perform in some way or be judged. You'll wonder if you can trust your talent and creativity — will you later feel embarrassed, or will you be proud of yourself for what you do for yourself?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your sense of well-being will attract people who are not quite as stable. Give your attention generously, but limit the amount of time you spend with people who could potentially knock you out of your emotional center.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your outstanding assets are obvious to all. You lead the way with your integrity, and therefore, decisions that might normally bring a quandary can be made in a snap. Taking the high road is the easiest thing to do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Because you hold the power and somebody else wants it, you may find yourself in a struggle. The more you oppose, the more opposition you encounter. Confuse your opponent by taking an unexpected approach.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's always difficult for you to set limits because you're so inclined to help anyone who claims to need assistance. Try to be a bit more logical now, though, because someone could be taking advantage of your bleeding heart.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). An ongoing battle is starting to drain your energy, and you may want it to be over. Though you just have been willing to compromise a few months ago, you've hardened your spirit. Because of this, you're likely to get your way.

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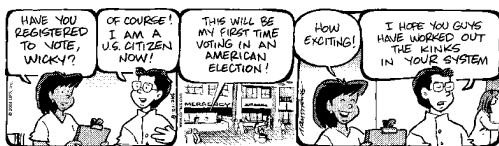
Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



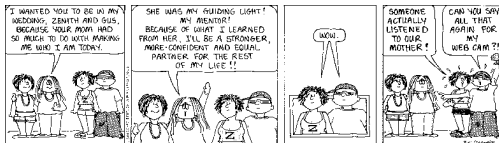
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



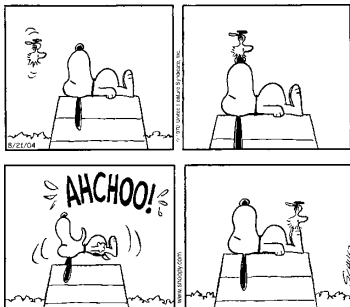
Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Elopers shouldn't have ceremony

Dear Abby:

I am a 21-year-old, happily married woman.

"Nolan" and I were married in 2002 and only recently informed my parents. Two years ago, I just wanted to be married to Nolan. I knew my family would not approve, so we eloped. Nolan's family knew about our elopement and are happy for us.

We planned to have a large family wedding "later." I have been planning my perfect wedding since I was 5.

Now my grandmother says that having a reception would be a good idea, but a "wedding" with a dress and attendants would be in very bad taste. I disagree — but am I being selfish? I love my family, but I am going to have only one ceremony in my life.

I was thinking we could have it in the church and I could have bridesmaids and everything. I won't wear white — my gown would be ivory. What do you

think?

— Married "Bride-to-Be"

Dear Married: Your grandmother is a wise lady, and she's right. A reception to celebrate your marriage would be far more tasteful than staging the wedding you skipped when you eloped. However, if and when you and Nolan decide to renew your vows — perhaps on your fifth anniversary — the ceremony you have in mind would be more appropriate at that time.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I have a beautiful, loving niece, "Marissa," who just turned 30. She desperately wants to be married and have children.

Marissa has been dating a man for two years. Last week, he told her that she's the one he wants to marry and have children with, but he's not ready to do it yet.

We have tried to talk to Marissa and encourage her to go out

with friends and enjoy life, but she can't seem to do it. Every time she hears that someone has gotten engaged or become pregnant, she gets depressed. Have you any words of wisdom for Marissa? We have exhausted our supply. Please print this. When I see your answer, I'll run it right over to her apartment.

— Caring Aunt in Ohio

Dear Aunt: If Marissa won't listen to you and those who love her, she's not going to be receptive to "wisdom" from me. She does, however, need some answers before she devotes any more time to her boyfriend.

After two years, why isn't he ready for marriage? Is he not ready emotionally? Financially? Does he still have wild oats to sow? Her biological clock is ticking. If he really plans to have a family with her, a talk with her ob-gyn might speed him to the altar. If it doesn't, she should move on.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 9940, Los Angeles CA 90009. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepspress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZAUER

LIDUF

RESTUM

GUDEMS

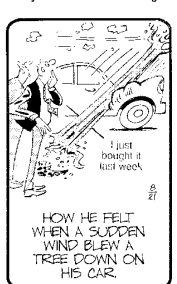
Answer: " " " " (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: LIMIT SOAPY MOTION BECAME

Answer: What she was fishing for on vacation — COMPLIMENTS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



HOW HE FELT WHEN A SUDDEN WIND BLEW A TREE DOWN ON HIS CAR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: " " " " (Answers Monday)

Friend wears out her welcome

Dear Annie:

"Jessie" and I have been friends for almost a year.

Her children are the same ages as mine, and they get along great. The problem is, Jessie has a tendency to overstay her welcome when she comes visit, which is often. On more than one occasion she has stayed until dinnertime, and being the gracious person that I am, I end up making dinner for her children as well as my own.

Last week, Jessie and I met at the zoo during lunchtime. I came fully prepared with sandwiches and drinks for my kids. She brought a small bag of crackers. After polishing off their snacks, her kids started eyeballing our sandwiches and whining about how hungry they were. When Jessie didn't offer to buy her children another snack, I felt obliged to make my kids share her food.

Jessie doesn't get my hints about leaving my house, and this

Annie's Mailbox



situation is starting to get on my nerves. I don't mean to sound petty, but Jessie has never invited us over for anything, although they've been to our place many times. I know it isn't an issue of money. Jessie and her husband spend plenty on nice vacations and theater tickets.

I hate to cut ties with her, since the kids adore one another, but I don't know what else to do. I'd appreciate your advice on this.

— Miffed in Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Miffed: Jessie knows she can count on you to feed her children. That is why she insists on bringing them to your house when meals are served, and why she doesn't bring lunches to the zoo when she knows you will be there. If you're certain it isn't a money issue, you should be less accommodating and more direct about it.

Never schedule anything with Jessie that will involve a meal. If she comes to your house and

won't leave, tell her, "So sorry I can't have the kids stay for dinner. I'll call you." Then usher her children out the door, and when Jessie follows, close it.

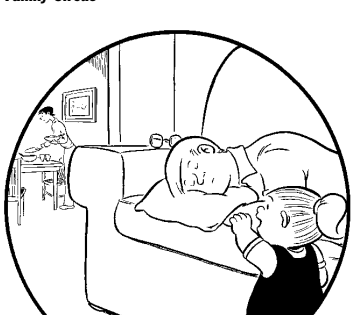
Dear Annie: I disagree with your response to "Annoyed in Nebraska." You said it is OK to have a bridal shower "in absentia" if the bride can't be bothered to attend. I think it is wrong to expect someone to purchase a gift for a guest of honor who won't attend her own shower.

— Married in Camarillo, Calif.

Dear Camarillo: You misunderstand the situation. Assume the bride lives in Brazil. The groom's family and friends live in Chicago, but they would like to give her a shower anyway. It's OK under those circumstances to do it without the bride.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

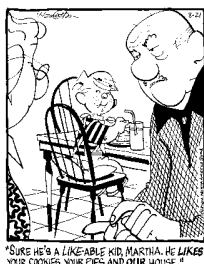
Family Circus



8-21
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"Rise and dine, Daddy!"

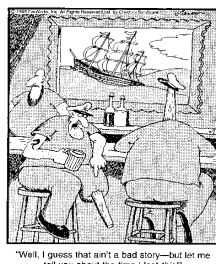


Dennis the Menace

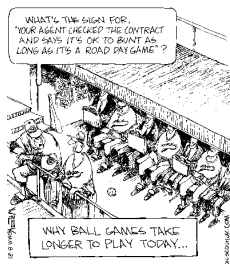


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The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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Making a run for Ricky's job

Undrafted rookie Russell moving up Miami's depth chart

BY STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — The boxes upon boxes of fan mail at Ricky Williams' old locker are gone, along with the artwork, the piles of shoes, the University of Texas brochures, the self-help books and No. 34 himself.

With Williams retired, the stall near the middle of the Miami Dolphins' locker room is much more tidy. Rookie Fred Russell has the locker and he'd like Williams' job, too.

"I heard he kept it real junky," Russell says of Williams.

Russell replacing Williams is a long shot — he's an undersized, undrafted rookie who began training camp fifth and last on the depth chart at running back. But he's gaining ground. An 88-yard run helped.

Russell busted the longest gain of his life — "even pee-wee ball," he says — in the final minute of the Dolphins' first exhibition game last week. He also broke loose for a 31-yard kick return.

On a team desperate for an offensive spark following Williams' departure last month, the performance by the 5-foot-7 Russell caught coach Dave Wannstedt's attention.

"Freddie Russell is a guy we have to take a look at," Wannstedt says. "He has a chance to be a kickoff returner. As a running back, he doesn't have the size you want ... but he is explosive."

Now third on the depth chart behind Travis Minor and Sammy Morris, Russell will likely get some carries Saturday against Washington.

But he knows his best shot to make the roster is on special teams.

"It's good to have big goals, but you've got to be realistic about your goals and take it step by step," he says. "Someday I want to be a starter, but right now I've got to break the ice on special teams. I want to be the best at it. I would love to be a special teams Pro Bowler."



Fred Russell (30), a rookie from Iowa, rushed for 101 yards on nine carries Saturday against Jacksonville, including this 88-yard run.

Less than three weeks into his professional career, Russell has already won the affection of teammates. They call him "Ricky" because of his locker location, or "Scooter Boy" because of the way he squirts through holes.

"He can hide behind his line," defensive tackle Larry Chester says. "When you're 6-foot-5 and you're facing a 6-5 lineman, you can't really get down low to tackle a 5-7 back. Cats go right over his head, and he's gone."

Big Ten linemen already knew that Russell rushed for more than 1,200 yards in each of his final two seasons at Iowa, then capped his career with a 150-yard effort against Florida in the Outback Bowl.

The Michigan native grew up a fan of former Detroit Lions star Barry Sanders, a recent Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee who is 5 feet 8.

"I see my size as an advantage," Russell says. "Being a running back, there is a lot of pounding. But it's hard for guys to get a clean shot on me, so I don't really take too many big hits on the upper body."

Russell was happy to show his breakaway ability in the first game, but was dismayed by mental mistakes, especially a blocking assignment he blew in pass protection.

"Luckily, I didn't get the quarterback killed," he says. "You don't want that to happen."

Such errors can be corrected, and Wannstedt and his staff are eager to see more of Russell in the next three exhibitions. "Anywhere we can get him on the field on special teams, we will try to do it," Wannstedt says. "This is a guy who has a chance to make the team as a special teams player, and whatever he can do as a running back is a bonus. He's exciting."

DT King joins Cardinals' injury list

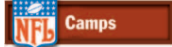
The Associated Press

Arizona Cardinals defensive tackle Kenny King needs surgery on his right wrist and probably will miss the season, the latest hit to a team struggling with injuries.

King, a fifth-round draft pick last season, had been battling rookie Darnell Dockett for the starting job on the right side of the defense. But he injured wrist tendons that had been surgically repaired this year. King missed practice Tuesday to have his injury diagnosed in Phoenix.

King was the fourth starter — first on defense — lost to injury.

The Cardinals have been practicing without wide receivers Anquan Boldin, Larry Fitzgerald and Bryant Johnson, all essential in the three-wide offensive set that Green prefers. Defensive end Fred Wakefield sustained his third concussion in a year Saturday, and cornerback Renaldo Hill has a strained hamstring.



In addition, fullback James Hodgins (shoulder), who doesn't count as a starter because of the one-back offense, safety Dexter Jackson (back) and running back Marcel Shipp (broken leg) are out for an extended period.

Seahawks: Backup quarterback Trent Dilfer returned to practice after being sidelined by back spasms last week. He might play against Denver on Saturday.

49ers: Quarterback Tim Rattay missed practice again Wednesday and underwent more tests on his injured throwing arm. Rattay has missed all but a few days of training camp because of an inflammation right forearm. An MRI exam Wednesday showed Rattay's forearm was healing.

Second-year quarterback Ken

Dorsey will make his second consecutive start Saturday when the 49ers play in Chicago.

Steelers: Offensive guard Kendall Simmons will miss the season with a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee. Simmons was injured during practice on Wednesday.

Jets: Strong safety Reggie Torgue, one of the team's main free-agent acquisitions this year, returned to practice Wednesday after missing 25 straight sessions due to a strained left calf.

Bills: Punter Brian Moorman, the AFC's Pro Bowl alternate in 2002 who had a 44.6-yard average last season, hurt his left leg in practice Wednesday and did not return. Coach Mike Mulroney did not know the extent of the injury.

Giants: Defensive end Keith Washington will be sidelined for about two weeks after breaking a bone near his eye during Friday's exhibition against Kansas City.

RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Victory Lane is driving away race winners

Sponsorship flap making some skip NASCAR's traditional celebration

By JOHN KERIS

The Associated Press

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — At the end of the drivers' meeting for last Sunday's Sirius at the Glen, Ryan Newman popped the all-important question.

"Where's Victory Lane," he asked with a devilish smile, even prompting a grin from NASCAR President Mike Helton.

It was a rare light moment these days about Victory Lane, which has become a focal point of controversy.

NASCAR has made PowerAde the official sponsor of Victory Lane and expects winning drivers to speed there for the post-race celebration, where an array of blue PowerAde bottles gets plunked on the roof of the winning car. It matters not that PowerAde is made by Coca-Cola, that several drivers have sponsorship deals with Pepsi, or that several tracks have Gatorade emblazoned all over Victory Lane.

Because Nextel Cup racing has become so competitive, wins are cherished as never before and drivers don't want to give up the emotion of the moment when they win.

"I think it needs to be celebrated," said Rusty Wallace. "You need to have your crew with you and your family with you and have a big time doing it instead of worrying about turning it into a commercial event."

That was echoed by Ricky Rudd, who has started 738 consecutive Cup races but hasn't won two years.

"When you win a race, you want to be able to share it with your crew, share it with your fans," Rudd said. "The rest of it,

the television and all that stuff, to me it's always been a necessary evil of the business."

"Don't get me wrong, Victory Lane is a great place to be. But it gets to be so rehearsed that you don't need to let the drivers and teams go have their celebration. Let them have their 10 minutes, then go through the work process. Victory Lane is work."

Indeed. After winning at Watkins Glen on Sunday and despite a bad case of stomach cramps that nearly forced him out of his car during the race, Tony Stewart obligingly donned nearly 60 hats in Victory Lane.

"Now it's definitely a lot more scripted because there's a lot more commitments, for teams, for NASCAR and for the cars," said Mike Arning, who handles public relations for Stewart. "It takes almost two hours. My tag bag is the size of a hockey (equipment) bag."

"The most unscripted fun happens when the driver crosses the finish line," Arning said. "The crew jumps up and down and celebrates, but it's almost like it ends when he gets to Victory Lane. The spontaneity of winning is kind of lost. It's still cool, but it's not this big party. It is what it is."

What it is is the chance for NASCAR to plug its official sponsors in front of a television audience that has increased substantially since stock car racing's governing body signed a television deal with NBC, Fox and TNT two years ago.

Although there is nothing in the rule book addressing what winning drivers are required to do, they are told to sit inside the car until the television cameras are live so viewers can see their reaction when they climb out.



Tony Stewart, holding the trophy for Sunday's Sirius at The Glen race, was the first NASCAR driver in three weeks to go to Victory Lane.

In August, exposure for those blue PowerAde bottles has dropped significantly.

Jimmie Johnson, who counts Pepsi as a sponsor, circumvented an order from Helton not to touch the bottles by knocking them off with a sign after his win at Pocono Raceway and was fined \$10,000.

A week later, teammate Jeff Gordon, another Pepsi driver, won at Indianapolis Motor Speedway for the fourth time in 11 years and celebrated on the track's famed row of bricks. And Stewart was so ill that as soon as

he climbed out of his car he was immediately whisked to his trailer to recover and returned long after the telecast had signed off.

Neither Gordon nor Stewart was fined.

"The most important thing is for us to maintain the celebration," said Gordon, who has won four Cup championships.

"What happened (at Indianapolis) from my end of it certainly didn't have anything to do with sponsors. That's where I wanted to share that moment with my team, and NASCAR had no prob-



Jimmie Johnson, who counts Pepsi as a sponsor, won at Pocono Raceway on Aug. 1 and knocked down the PowerAde bottles atop his car in Victory Lane. He was fined \$10,000.

lem with that. They just wanted the car in Victory Lane."

Conflicts are inevitable. According to Joyce Julius & Associates, a Michigan firm that calculates exposure value at sporting events for corporate entities, each year between 700 and 1,000 sponsors sign on with NASCAR. There aren't enough seconds in a day for all of them.

"There are going to be conflicting sponsors and you're going to have those issues, but they're going to have to be handled in a professional way and in a respectful manner," said Kitty Petty.

"They've been handled in the heat of the moment and at the height of emotion, and a lot of times that's not the best way to handle things."

"The problem is it's changed recently," Petty said. "Is the change a plus or a minus? Right now, you've got to give it a minus. You can't say it's a plus because it's caused controversy. Who would ever have thought in a sport that's growing the way this sport's growing we'd be arguing about bottles sitting on the roofs of cars in Victory Lane?"

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 23: GFS Marketplace 400, 9 a.m. Monday (dlid), SPT.

Last race: Plagued by an upset stomach, Tony Stewart fought through pain to win the Sirius at the Glen, NASCAR's road race at Watkins Glen International, for the second time in three years. Stewart led 46 of 90 laps on the 11-turn layout, going to the front for the final time by passing Casey Mears on lap 76.

The 2002 series champion earned his second win of the season and the 19th of his career.

Last year's Ryan Newman was able to stretch his final track of gas 52 laps and easily beat Kevin Harvick, who made his last pit stop on lap 149, by 1.652 seconds — about 10 car-lengths.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Ryan Newman Mayfield, who is 10th in the standings after two bad top-10 finishes in his last two races, but has won the last two races at Michigan. Newman had only three top-10 finishes in 21 career starts at the track, including his first at the track.

Jeff Burton is making his first start in Richmond after a season-long absence from the track. Burton had only one top-10 finish in his last 10 races. Burton had only one top-10 finish in his last 10 races. Burton had only one top-10 finish in his last 10 races.

Nestel Cup qualifying record Dale Earnhardt Jr., 19:11.9 mph, 2000
Nestel Cup race record Dale Jarrett, 17:39.7, June 13, 1999

FAST FACTS

Jimmie Johnson, who leads the points standings for the eighth consecutive race week, failed to finish for a second straight week with engine trouble. — Jeff Gordon has closed within 40 points of Johnson with seven top-five finishes in his last nine races. — Stewart, the 2003 winner at Michigan, has had five top-five finishes in his last six races.

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Cabela's 250 at Brooklynn, Mich. (Sunday in progress, late afternoon, 1 p.m. Sunday, SPT).

Last race: Kyle Busch passed up a pit stop for tires, then held off Johnny Sauter in the final laps to win the Kroger 200 at Indianapolis Raceway Park on Aug. 7, his fourth victory of the season. Last year, PIR strategy again ran helter-skelter. Kevin Harvick won. Tony Stewart, making his first Busch start since 1996, led 82 of the first 100 laps before surrendering the lead to Harvick after pitting.

Next race: Food City 250, Aug. 27, Bristol, Tenn.

INDY RACING

This week: Honda Indy 225 at Fountain, Colo. (Thursday, 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, SPT).

Last race: Adrian Fernandez led 51 of the 100 laps and lost the starter's flag to the finish line by 0.0581 seconds, producing the first win for a driver from Costa Rica.

Next race: Indy 300 at Kentucky Speedway, Aug. 29, Nashville, Tenn.

Last year: Scott Dixon led the final 84 laps and won under caution. Two cars spun out in the final 10 laps, producing the first win.

Next race: Firestone Indy 225, Aug. 29, Nashville, Tenn.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

This week: O'Reilly 200 at Bristol, Tenn.

Toph, (late-afternoon, 4 p.m. Thursday, SPT).

Last race: Bobby Hamilton won the high point to get around David Stoltz and lead the race. Hamilton won the Toyota Tundra 200 at Nashville Super Speedway. Hamilton, the series' 1993 leader, won his fourth Craftsman Truck Series race of the season by 0.35 seconds. Hamilton won his fourth truck-lengths. Hamilton won his fourth truck-lengths. Hamilton won his fourth truck-lengths.

Next race: Craftsman Truck Series 200, Aug. 29, Montreal.

CHAMP CARS

Last race: Sebastian Bourdais recovered from a bump on the first lap to win, worked his way through the field and won the race. Bourdais won the race. Bourdais won the race. Bourdais won the race.

Next race: Aug. 29, Montreal.

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Michael Schumacher beat Fernando Alonso to win the race. Schumacher won the race. Schumacher won the race. Schumacher won the race.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Patterson wins women's all-around title

U.S. teen edges Khorkina, becomes first American since '84 to take gold

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Sorry, Svetlana. There's a new Queen of Gymnastics, and her name is Carly Patterson.

The 16-year-old American who drew comparisons to Mary Lou Retton delivered a dazzling routine on the floor to win the all-around gold Thursday night and spoil Russian superstar Svetlana Khorkina's final chance to win the Olympic title in gymnastics' premier event.

Patterson became the first American woman to win the all-around since Retton in 1984, and she matched Paul Hamm's first-place finish on the same floor Wednesday.

"Strong. Sturdy. Just like we expected. It's great. She was beautiful," said Bela Karolyi, who coached Retton and was in the stands for this one.

Patterson scored a 9.712 on floor to finish with 38.387 points and defeat Khorkina by .176. Nan Zhang of China won bronze.

Khorkina, who for years called herself the "Queen of Gymnastics," still took the one prize that has eluded her during an entertaining and wildly successful career — a medal in the Olympic all-around.

And when it was over, she acted like a champion, saluting the crowd, grabbing the Russian flag and taking it to the uneven bars, where she showed it off and dragged it across the lower bar. She'll try to add to her silver medal Sunday, going for her third gold in the uneven bars.

Patterson isn't close to being as graceful a ballerina as Khorkina. But she's more athletic, more explosive and on this night, she was just a little bit better.

Like Khorkina, Patterson closed the night on the floor. On all four tumbling passes, she jumped higher than any of the other 23 women in the meet. Just as importantly,



Carly Patterson of the United States locked up the gold medal in the women's gymnastics all-around competition Thursday night with a 9.712 in the floor exercise.

she pulled off perfect landings that almost always make the difference between first and second place.

When it was over, Patterson jumped into coach Evgeny Marchenko's embrace and wrapped her arms around his neck. He then carried her around for almost a minute — and that was before the final results.

When they were posted, Patterson had the title she's worked so hard for, and Marchenko lifted her on his left shoulder and paraded her in front of the spectators — a champion's chariot for a championship effort.

The other American in the competition, Courtney Kupets, struggled all night and finished ninth.

Last year in the world championships, it was Khorkina edging out Patterson.

Two moments stood out then: Khorkina leaving the floor and admitting she was disinterested while Patterson was performing the decisive routine on vault. Then, during the medalists' news conference, Patterson stepped onto the podium to be greeted by Khorkina, who immediately started flipping through a magazine to show the American her latest modeling pictures.

An arrogant insult? Maybe so.

"I just thought, 'Whatever,'" Patterson said last month. "I'll go out and do my gymnastics and the best person will win."

She did just that.

Retton, who for two decades has been waiting impatiently to see who the "Next Mary Lou" might be, started screaming when she heard the news from home.

"I have been waiting 20 years. The crown has been sitting and waiting for the next all-around champion," she said. "Carly Patterson, it's yours."

During the medals ceremony, Patterson sang along with "The Star-Spangled Banner," played at the arena for the second straight night, and looked to be blinking back tears.

Khorkina, meanwhile, stared at the scoreboard and smiled at the fans, most of whom had come to see her.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Gold medals can mean hitting jackpot

Some developing nations handing out big money to event winners in Games

By WILLIAM J. KOLE
The Associated Press

There's less than \$100 worth of gold in the most-coveted of Olympic medals, but winning one can mean hitting the jackpot—especially for athletes from developing countries.

Romanian gold medalists will receive tax-free bonuses of \$50,000—twice what U.S. champions will get. Iraq's new government has pledged \$25,000 for each of its winners, while Kenya's winners will get flat-screen TVs and washing machines along with cash.

Governments, national Olympic committees and corporations have teamed up to ensure the spoils of victory are far more than chump change.

It's an ancient tradition of the Games. Beginning around 500 B.C., Olympic victors were paid 500 drachmas—a fortune at a time when a sheep cost one drachma coin—and enjoyed free meals and front-row theater seats for the rest of their lives.

Modern-day athletes and coaches, though, have mixed feelings about the Olympic pots of gold.

Romania's women gymnasts, who the team said will receive two cars, a free college education and a lifetime of rent courtesy of the government along with their hefty \$50,000 bonuses.

In a country where the average monthly take-home pay is \$170, that's wealth most Romanians can only dream of.

Octavian Belu, who coaches the women's team, thinks big payoffs

backfire because athletes tend to quit after their first Olympics.

Most of his champions are in their late teens, and he's frustrated that he has few recent Olympians such as 25-year-old Russian diva Svetlana Khorkina.

"They collect their rewards and they leave," he said. "It's a real problem for me."

But Olympic payoffs are getting bigger, especially in the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe, where nations are eager to win prestige.

The Philippines, which has never won a gold medal, wants one so badly it's offering a bonus of \$125,000.

Ukraine will double what it paid gold medalists in the 2000 Sydney Games. Victors will get \$100,000 from the government, plus free apartments in Kiev.

Bonuses of up to \$250,000 may await Russia's gold medalists. In the U.S., winners of the \$50,000 tax-free, but the Russian Olympic Committee is also working to persuade companies to chip in extra bonuses of \$100,000 for a gold and possibly \$200,000 if Athens is the champion's final Olympics. Russians who break a world record on their way to a gold medal get an extra \$50,000.

The U.S. Olympic Committee is

offering only \$25,000 for golds, \$15,000 for silvers and \$10,000 for bronzes. USA Swimming says it will chip in another \$25,000 for golds in the pool. In any case, the best-known and most telegenic American champions get lucrative product endorsements and appearance fees that are rare in the developing world.

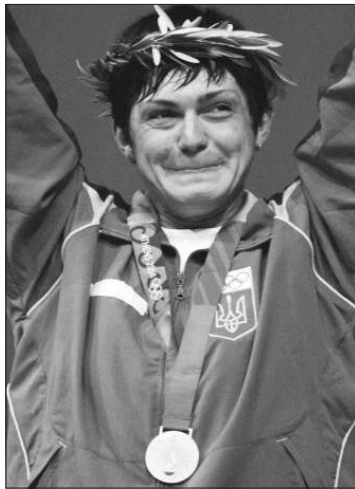
It isn't always about the money. Iranian weightlifter Hossein Rezaeezadeh, considered the world's strongest man after lifting the equivalent of three refrigerators to win gold in Sydney, also holds Greek citizenship. But when Greece offered him \$20,000 a month to switch allegiances, he refused, saying he was competing for his homeland.

When Thai weightlifter Udomporn Polsak won gold Sunday, Thailand's deputy prime minister said he'd give her \$24,000 of his money, and several companies offered sponsorship deals. But her biggest tribute came when her father and grandfather pledged to take temporary vows as Buddhist monks to show their thanks.

Iraq's Olympic committee, reinstated by the International Olympic Committee six months ago, has promised \$25,000 for gold medals, though it may need sponsors to come up with the cash. Iraq has 25 athletes in Athens, including an 18-man soccer team.

The Philippines, which has never won a gold medal, wants one so badly it's offering a bonus of \$125,000. Tiny Albania, one of Europe's poorest countries, can only afford to ante up \$10,000.

In many corners of the world, there's a big difference to the gold



Ukraine weightlifter Natalya Skamun smiles after winning the gold medal in the women's 137-pound (63 kg) event on Wednesday. Ukraine is paying gold medalists in the Athens Games \$100,000, double what it paid for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

rush. When dreams of Olympic glory die, visions of Easy Street are dashed along with them.

Oana Petroschi, a top Romanian gymnast who won silver in the uneven bars in the 2002 world championships, had to quit the sport last year after suffering two

herniated discs in training. "Disappointing my parents was the most difficult part," she told The Associated Press.

They had high hopes, she said tearfully, that she'd win a medal in Athens—and with it, lifelong financial security for the family.

Olympics scoreboard

Thursday's scores

BASKETBALL
Men
New Zealand 90, Serbia-Montenegro 87
Spain 71, Italy 63
France 83, Argentina 79
Puerto Rico 83, Angola 80
China 57, Lithuania 50

FIELD HOCKEY
Men
Netherlands 3, South Korea 0
Pakistan 5, Egypt 1
Spain 5, Britain 1
New Zealand 3, Argentina 1
Australia 4, India 3

SOFTBALL
China 1, Taiwan 0
United States 7, Greece 0, 5 innings
Italy 1, Australia 0

TEAM HANDBALL
Women
South Korea 40, Argentina 30
United States 35, Greece 15
Ukraine 21, Brazil 19
Denmark 23, Spain 21

Volleyball
Men
Italy 3, Australia 0 (25-20, 25-18, 25-21)
France 3, Netherlands 1 (25-12, 24-26, 25-21)
Brazil 3, Serbia-Montenegro 0 (25-16, 25-18, 25-17)
France 3, Poland 0 (25-15, 25-18, 25-17)
Serbia-Montenegro 3, Tunisia 0 (25-16, 25-18, 25-21)
Argentina 3, Greece 1 (16-25, 25-21, 25-22, 25-22)
Greece 3, United States 1 (22-25, 25-20, 25-16, 25-23)

WATER POLO
Men
Serbia-Montenegro 6, Kazakhstan 5
Hungary 7, United States 5

Swimming

200 Backstroke
1. Aaron Peirsol, Irvine, Calif., 1:54.95
2. Markus Rogan, Austria, 1:57.35
3. Razvan Ionut Flores, Romania, 1:57.56
4. James Goldstein, Britain, 1:57.75
5. Tomomi Morita, Japan, 1:58.40
6. Simon Dufour, France, 1:58.49
7. Gregor Tait, Britain, 1:59.27
8. Riaz Medvedev, Slovenia, 2:00.06

100 Individual Medley
1. Michael Phelps, U.S., 1:57.14
2. Ryan Lochte, Daytona Beach, Fla., 1:58.26
3. Ryan Powell, Ireland and Tobago, 1:58.26
4. Ryan Powell, Ireland and Tobago, 1:58.80
5. Thiago Pereira, Brazil, 2:00.19
6. Yury Prigoda, Russia, 2:00.25
7. Yury Prigoda, Russia, 2:01.28
8. Yury Prigoda, Russia, 2:01.28

Women
1. Jodie Henry, Australia, 53.84
2. Natalie Coughlin, Concord, Calif., 54.40
3. Natalie Coughlin, Concord, Calif., 54.40
4. Kara Lynn Joyce, Ann Arbor, Mich., 54.54
5. Mary Mearns, Melbourne, Greece, 54.61
6. Martina Moravcova, Slovakia, 55.12
7. Martina Moravcova, Slovakia, 55.12
8. Alena Potrichina, Belarus, 55.24

200 Breaststroke
1. Amanda Jones, Irvine, Calif., 2:33.37
2. Anelise Jansen, Australia, 2:33.69
3. Anelise Jansen, Australia, 2:33.69
4. Masami Tanaka, Japan, 2:35.87
5. Agnieszka Hladysz, Hungary, 2:36.12
6. Hui, China, 2:36.35
7. Brooke Hanson, Australia, 2:36.39

Fencing

Men's Team Sabre
Bronze Medal
Russia (Aleksey Yakimchuk 1-1; Stanislav Pozdnyakov 2-0; Sergei Charikov 6-3), def. United States (Jason Van Zee 0-2; Ivan Lee, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1-1; Keith Smart, Brooklyn, N.Y., 0-2; 4-6, 4-6)

Gold Medal
France (Gaël Tota 3-0; Damien Touya 1-2; Julien Pilot 1-2), def. Italy (Gianpiero Pansa 1-2; Aldo Montano 2-1; Luigi Tarantino 1-2), 4-6, 4-2, 3-0

Badminton
Women
Singles
Gold Medal
Zhang Ning, China, def. Mia Audina Tjendjaja, Indonesia, 11-11, 11-7

Bronze Medal
Zhou Mi, China, def. Gong Rong, China, 11-11, 11-4

Mixed Doubles
Bronze Medal
Jens Eriksson and Mette Skjoldager, Denmark, def. Jonas Bjornsen and Birke Otten-Denmark, 2-0

Gold Medal
Zhang Jun and Gao Ling, China, def. Nathan Robertson and Gem Ems, Britain, 15-11, 12-15, 15-12

Archery
Men
Individual
Tim Cuddihy, Australia, def. Laurence Godfrey, Britain, 111-112

Gold Medal

Marco Galzarrò, Italy, def. Hiroshi Yamamoto, Japan, 111-102

Shooting

Men
1. Manfred Kurzer, Germany (590, 92.4), 602.4
2. Alexander Blinov, Russia (578, 100.0), 678.0
3. Dmitri Lykin, Russia (584, 93.1), 677.1
4. Emil Andersson, Sweden (578, 98.8), 676.8
5. Michael Jakobs, Germany (578, 98.7), 676.7

Did not advance
6. Adam Szafron, Herford, Ariz. (575), 676.7

Women
Singles
1. Diana Igaly, Hungary (72, 25), 97
2. Wei Jian, China (70, 23), 93
3. Zhenfeng Mefkhetdinova, Azerbaijan (71, 22), 93
4. Liliyana Markez, Australia (69, 23), 92
5. Kimberly Rhode, El Monte, Calif. (68, 23), 91
6. Connie Smotek, Bryan, Texas (68, 22), 90

Judo

Men
100kg
Gold Medal
Ihar Makarau, Belarus, def. Jang Sung-U, South Korea, Waza-ari

Women's 78kg
Gold Medal Contest
Noriko Aono, Japan, def. Liu Xia, China, Ippon, Sode-tsukumi-goshi, 4:38

Gymnastics

Women's All Around
1. Carly Patterson, United States, 38.37 points
2. Svetlana Khorkina, Russia, 38.211
3. Zhang Nan, China, 38.048
4. Anna Pavlova, Russia, 38.024
5. Nicoleta Daniela Sofrone, Romania, 37.948

6. Irina Yarostka, Ukraine, 37.687
7. Marine Debraux, France, 37.561
8. Elena Gomez, Spain, 37.299
9. Courtney Kupets, United States, 37.112

Weightlifting
Men
1. Tamer Sagar, Turkey (1, 172.50-380; 1, 202.50-447; 375.00 kg-827 pounds)
2. Sergey Filimonov, Kazakhstan, 172.50-380; 5, 200.00-430; 372.50-821
3. Oleg Pervozheikov, Russia, 170.00-372; 10, 195.00-430; 365.00-805
4. Ruyhan Arslanoglu, Azerbaijan, 165.00-365; 8, 195.00-430; 360.00-794
5. Viktor Mitro, Greece, 8, 160.00-353; 3, 200.00-411; 360.00-794

Women
75kg
1. Liu Chunhong, China (1, 122.50-270; 1, 152.50-330; 275.00 kg-606 pounds)
2. Ester Krut'zler, Russia, 2, 117.50-259; 2, 145.00-320; 262.50-579
3. Zarema Kasasova, Russia, 3, 117.50-259; 3, 145.00-320; 262.50-579
4. Slawka Rutkiska, Bulgaria, 4, 115.00-254; 5, 150.00-280; 250.00-551
5. Vanda Maslova, Ukraine, 5, 110.00-242; 4, 135.00-280; 245.00-540

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Finishing with a flourish,
U.S. tops Australia 89-79

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — LeBron James eyed Shawn Marion's pass coming toward him and made a split-second decision to redirect the ball. One nifty touch pass later, Dwyane Wade converted it into a layup.

The basket broke the last tie and began a game-changing 10-point run at the start of the fourth quarter, leading the United States to a 89-79 victory over Australia on Thursday.

The win might have been a big step toward reversing the fortunes of a U.S. team that struggled to beat Greece and was embarrassed by Puerto Rico in a 19-point loss.

Everything's not clicking yet, but we're heading that way," Tim Duncan said. "It was a great learning experience today being able to fight back and staying with each other."

After a defensively inept first half and a so-so third quarter, the Americans increased their defensive intensity, moved the ball with aplomb and put together a few of the showtime moments their Olympic predecessors took for granted.

On Day 6 of the Games, perhaps the final arrived.

"This young kid (James) and Dwyane Wade started throwing the ball inside, and all of the sudden everybody on our team got

better," coach Larry Brown said. "Hopefully we've got to remember that. But we're not dealing with Michael Jordans and Larry Birds and Magic Johnsons that have done that from the beginning, and it's going to take time for some of these young people."

Duncan scored 18 points, Allen Iverson and Marion each added 16 and Wade scored 12 for the U.S. team, which shot 57 percent from the field — 71 percent from two-point range but only 3-for-17 on three.

The Americans kept their turnovers down, found better shots than in their first two games and realized that the only way to fuel their offense is through defense.

The United States forced four misses and a turnover on Australia's first five possessions of the fourth quarter, and the ball movement was fluid and flashy during the 10-0 run that put the Americans ahead 75-67.

Australia, led by Shane Heal's 17 points, never threatened again. "That's all our team is about," James said. "If we stop people, we're the most athletic team in this whole tournament and we can get out and get easy buckets."

From the start, the Americans looked to run their offense through Duncan in the low post. But their defensive intentions were slow and they repeatedly left players open at the three-point line.

Brown could only shake his

head as Glen Saville sank the Aussies' fifth three-pointer of the first quarter for a 24-18 lead, and the United States was down by 12 before the period was over.

The Americans' reluctance to attempt a three-pointer was clear late in the second quarter when James hesitated so much before releasing the shot that the ball never even made it to the rim.

"I think they continue to [improve], but they'd better make jump shots to win the gold in this tournament," Heal said.

Wade and Iverson drove coast to coast for layups late in the half to help the Americans pull within 51-47 at the break, and Brown went with Marion instead of Richard Jefferson to start a second half that began with Duncan's third foul.

Duncan remained on the court and played foul-free for the rest of the quarter, and the Americans took their first lead since the early going on an alley-oop dunk by Marion off a pass from Iverson that made it 61-60 with 4:38 left.

A late three-pointer by Brett Maher gave Australia a 67-65 lead entering the fourth quarter.

"We're trying to get better, and we're not where we want to be — but we've progressed," Iverson said. "If we stay consistent on defense, we'll be fine. We'll get the easy baskets and then won't have rely on jumpers."

Switching from Jefferson to Marion at the start of the second



Australia's Jason Smith guards Allen Iverson of the U.S. during a preliminary-round game Thursday in Athens. Iverson scored 16 points.

half wasn't the only change Brown made. He also kept Carmelo Anthony on the bench for all but 2 minutes.

"I don't need a guy who doesn't want to buy in," Brown said. "How you play, how you practice and how you act determines how much you play."

James seems to have received that message, accepting his role off the bench and trying to provide the energy that the U.S. team has been missing.

"We don't have them all, but their starting to care about each other and understand the importance of representing our country the right way," Brown said. "The biggest challenge coaches have today on all levels is for guys to think of coaching as coaching and not criticism."

"He has a hard time looking at me sometimes because of how he might be perceived by certain people, but he listens to everything I say."

Pool: Peirso sweeps backstrokes when DQ overtuned

POOL, FROM BACK PAGE

Austria's Marcus Rogan, who finished more than two seconds behind Peirso's 1:54.95, was briefly feted as the gold medalist.

When the decision was changed, he didn't seem too upset about settling for silver.

"Aaron is a very honest person. I am sure he swam fairly," said Rogan, a close friend of the American. "For a moment, I thought about gold and the idea was just beautiful but, after all, it's fair like this."

But the Austrians protested the ruling, as did Britain after its swimmer, James Goddard, was bumped from third to fourth. About 2½ hours after the race, FINA rejected the appeal, giving the bronze to Romania's Razvan Florea.

According to American assistant coach Dave Sato, the judge in Peirso's lane apparently applied an old rule that involves kicking going into the wall. The sport's governing body announced that the judge did not adequately explain the alleged violation "in the working language of FINA" — English or French.

Peirso was baffled by the whole ordeal. "I tried to remember what I had done wrong," he said.

Otherwise, it was a smooth night for the Americans, who received five medals in all. Ryan Lochte's silver in the 200 medley was part of a 1-2 finish with Peirso, the bronze going to George Bovell of Trinidad.

And Natalie Coughlin held on for bronze in the 100 free, finishing behind Henry and defending champion Inge de Bruijn of the Netherlands.

"A very good night for us," Coughlin said. "We're a team that gains momentum and it's only going to get better the next two days."

"At first, we were a little nervous for Aaron. Then we realized it was an old rule that doesn't apply."

Beard won her race in an Olympic-record time of 2 minutes, 23.37 seconds — 0.23 seconds better than Australian Leisel Jones, who was under world-record pace for the first 150 meters. Jones took silver, while Anne Poleska of Germany earned bronze.

Phelps took his swimming to new heights with an Olympic record (1:57.14) in the 200 medley, giving the 19-year-old from Baltimore his third individual gold medal. Mark Spitz is the only other U.S. swimmer to win more than two individual races in one Olympics.

Spitz, of course, is the man Phelps was chasing when he took on a staggering eight events in Athens.

The quest to win seven gold medals — Spitz's total from the 1972 Munich Games — will fall short. But Phelps, who also has two bronze medals, is still on course to match the Olympic record of eight medals set by Soviet gymnast Aleksandr Dityatin in the boycotted Moscow Games of 1980.



It wasn't an American sweep in the pool Thursday. Australian Jodie Henry, above, won the gold medal in the women's 100-meter freestyle. Inge de Bruijn of the Netherlands won the silver and Natalie Coughlin of the U.S. took the bronze.

"I can't get away from numbers," Phelps quipped.

He'll go for his seventh medal Friday, in the 100 butterfly. He also is expected to swim the 400 medley relay, an event the United States has never lost in the Olympics.

Peirso became the fifth male swimmer — and fourth American — to sweep the backstrokes, following mentor Lenny Krayzelburg (2000), Rick Carey (1984), John Nabor (1976) and East Germany's Roland Matthes (1968 and '72).

Beard overcame Australian Leisel Jones to win a duel between the two fastest female breaststrokers in history. It was the sixth Olympic medal of Beard's career, and this one was especially sweet — the first gold that was entirely on her shoulders.

"I don't think the smile will come off my face for a while," the three-time Olympian said.

Jones went out in world-record pace, but Beard caught her in the final 50 of an Olympic record of 2:23.37 — 0.23 seconds better than Jones.

Henry finally ended the American winning streak in the last final of the night. She finished strong and touched first in 53.84, just one day after setting a world record of 53.52 in the semis.

The 30-year-old de Bruijn took silver in 54.16.

Coughlin got the bronze in 54.40.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

5 more weightlifters suspended

All athletes punished failed pre-Olympic steroid tests

By ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Weightlifting's governing body isn't about to give up its aggressive pursuit of drug cheaters, even if it jeopardizes the sport's future in the Olympics, the group's top official said Thursday after six more positive drug tests.

Five weightlifters were suspended for flunking drug tests taken before the Olympics, including two disqualified as they were about to walk to the lifting stand. All were caught using steroids.

Another, identified by India Olympic officials as Sanamacha Chami, became the second to be caught by International Olympic

Committee testing. She finished fourth Sunday at 117 pounds (53kg).

The International Weightlifting Federation apparently chose to announce the suspensions during the Olympics, rather than afterward, in an effort to convince the IOC it is adequately policing a sport with a reputation as the Games' dirtiest.

Twenty-one world-class weightlifters have been caught or suspended this year, or the equivalent of one out of every 13 Olympic qualifiers.

"I am sure you are asking, 'Why are you doing these controls?' You are digging your own grave," IWF President Tamás Ájan said.

"Yes, this is true. But I tell you we are doing everything against the drugs and we are going to continue the fight against the drugs because we are for fair play."

The IWF said the suspended lifters were Wafa Ammour of Morocco, Zoltan Keszkes of Hungary, Viktor Chislen of Moldova, Pratima Kumar Nig of India and Sule Sahbaz of Turkey.

Ammouri and Keszkes were scheduled to lift Wednesday, but were suspended just before their competitions.

Normally, suspensions are for two years unless the athlete is a repeat offender. Earlier this year, 2000 Olympic champion Galabin Boevski was banned for eight years after failing a second test.

U.S. draws blood but can't medal

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — A rally by Keith Smart fell short in the U.S. saber fencing team's loss to France on Thursday, a semifinal match that came down to a final point and left his opponent bleeding from his hand.

And then the Americans were left without a medal, losing the bronze to Russia. France won the gold, beating Italy in the final.

Olympic medals roundup

In the disputed semifinal, Smart stood in the middle of the strip, his helmet off and mouth agape, after the referee awarded the final point to France's Damien Touya, who had bloodstains on the leg of his white suit.

The Americans trailed 40-38 entering the final round of the bout in which 45 touches wins, but Smart rallied against Touya, tying the bout at 44 and setting up the deciding point.

Smart and Touya charged each other and recorded touches, but the referee did not award a point. On the play, Smart's saber went through Touya's glove, piercing his hand at the webbing of his fingers, and exiting through his palm. His trainers bandaged the hand while his replacement, Boris Sanson, warmed up.

Smart, meanwhile, took a seat on a chair on the edge of the strip, getting advice from his coach, Yuri Gelman. With a 10-minute timeout set to end, Touya chose to return to the match with his injured and bandaged hand instead of being replaced.

The two fencers attacked two more times but no points were awarded. On extra play, referee Jose Luis Alvarez determined that the fencers attacked simultaneously.

On the fourth attempt at a deciding point, Smart and Touya both recorded touches, but Alvarez ruled that Touya caught Smart while preparing to attack,

giving the Frenchman the victory.

Gelman ran onto the strip to argue with the referee, but to no avail.

"We made a deal today that we weren't going to blame the referee," U.S. team captain Jeff Bunkant said. "But it seemed that in two matches today, every time Keith made an attack and the guy counterattacked, they called it a double ... a simultaneous action. ... Every time it looked like a simultaneous, he called it against Keith."

Alvarez was also the referee in the quarterfinals when the Americans upset Hungary. In that bout, Smart entered the final round trailing 40-38, but outscored Domonkos Ferencsik 7-3 to give the U.S. team a 45-43 win.

Shooting

Women's skeet: Diana Isgaly of Hungary made all 25 of her shots in the final round to win the gold medal on Thursday.

Isgaly finished with a total score of 97, one off the Olympic record set by Zhenfira Metakhedina of Azerbaijan in Athens in 2000. Metakhedina won the bronze this year, finishing with a 93 and losing a shoot-off to Wei Ning of China.

Men's 10-meter running target: Manfred Kurzer of Germany won the gold medal after setting a world record in qualifying for the running target event, possibly the last time it will be held in the Olympics.

Kurzer scored 590 points of a possible 600, beating the record of 588 set by Yang Ling of China in 2002. In the finals he faltered a bit, but held off silver medalist Alexander Breda and bronze winner Dmitri Ildor of Russia.

Badminton

Women's singles: China displayed its dominance in the sport when world champion Zhang Ning won the women's singles final and Zhou Mi beat fellow Chi-

nese Gong Ruina 11-2, 8-11, 11-6 for bronze.

Zhang beat Indonesian-born Dutchwoman Mia Audina 8-11, 11-6, 11-5.

Mixed doubles: Zhang Jun and Gao Ling edged the British pair of Nathan Robertson and Gail Emms 15-1, 12-15, 15-12.

The bronze medal in the mixed doubles went to Denmark's Jens Eriksen and Mette Schjoldager, who beat compatriots Jonas Rasmussen and Rikke Olsen 15-5, 15-5.

Weightlifting

Women's 69 kg: Liu Chunhong of China broke three of her own world records Thursday in winning the gold medal.

Chunhong, the defending world champion, set records in the snatch of 270 pounds (122.5kg), the clean and jerk of 337 pounds (153kg) and total lift of 606 pounds (275kg). The total lift equals a weightlifter's best combined lifts in the snatch and clean and jerk.

The 19-year-old Chunhong broke the records she set in last year's world championships of 264½ pounds (120kg) in the snatch, 336 pounds (152.5kg) in the clean and jerk and total lift of 595 pounds (270kg).

Judo

Men's 100 kg: Jang Makraou of Belarus beat Igor Shkarau of South Korea to win the gold medal. Michael Jurack of Germany and Ariel Zeevi of Israel shared the bronze.

Women's 78 kg: Noriko Ando of Japan beat Liu Xia of China on Thursday to win the gold medal. Lucia Morico of Italy and Yurisel Landa of Cuba shared the bronze.

Archery

Men's individual: Marco Galiazza of Italy won the gold medal, beating Hiroshi Yamamoto of Japan 111-109.

Tim Cuddihy of Australia won the bronze.



Greece's Stacey Farnworth catches the ball as she prepares to tag United States' Jessica Mendoza (2). The Americans won 7-0.

Navratilova ousted; U.S. softball coasts

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Martina Navratilova's long, illustrious career will end without an Olympic medal.

She's done everything else — dozens of Grand Slam titles and years ranked No. 1 — but one last hurrah as an Olympic rookie at 47 didn't pan out.

Third-seeded Navratilova and Lisa Raymond lost 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 on Thursday night to fifth-seeded Shinobu Asagoe and Ai Sugiyama of Japan in the quarterfinals, one step shy of the medal round.

That leaves U.S. chances for hardware in tennis up to two unheralded men who were able to do something Andy Roddick couldn't — reach the singles semifinal.

Mardy Fish beat Mikhail Yuzhny of Russia 6-3, 6-4, while Taylor Dent was a 6-4, 6-1 winner against Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic, the 18-year-old who upset No. 1 Roger Federer.

The success of Fish and Dent represented quite a 24-hour turnaround for the U.S. contingent: Roddick, Venus Williams and two other women, plus the men's doubles team all lost Wednesday.

The semifinals Friday will both be between the United States and Chile, which has never won a tennis medal. Dent plays No. 10 Nicolas Massu, and Fish plays No. 16 Fernando Gonzalez, who upset Roddick in the third round.

The women's semifinals: No. 1 Justine Henin-Hardened of Belgium vs. No. 3 Anastasia Myskina of Russia, and No. 2 Annette Mauressmo of France vs. unseeded Alicia Molik of Australia.

U.S. shows no mercy in softball, wins another shutout

ATHENS, Greece — Lisa Fernandez pitched a one-hitter Thursday as the two-time defending gold medalist United States won its sixth straight shutout in softball, a shortened 7-0 victory over Greece.

Greece (2-4) did it could. The United States (6-0) simply wore down the Greeks — represented by several Americans of Greek ancestry — and put an opponent away after five innings for

the fourth time under the so-called mercy rule.

Fernandez hit an RBI single in the third inning for the only run she would need. Leah O'Brien-Amico and Jessica Mendoza added two RBIs apiece.

China (3-3) beat Taiwan 14-0, scoring the only run on a fifth-inning fielding error by first baseman Chiang Li Chiu. Taiwan (2-4) missed a chance to tie it when Chen Miao Yi was tagged at home by Chinese catcher Guo Jia to end the fourth.

Ward advances, but Martirosyan loses to Cuban in boxing

U.S. medal prospect Andre Ward beat Italy's Clemente Russo 17-9 to advance to the quarterfinals as the Americans finished 6-1 in run through the preliminaries. The Americans sent eight fighters into the second round, with two advancing on byes.

But in their first match Thursday, welterweight Vances Martirosyan lost 20-11 to Lorenzo Aragon. Cuba's two-time world champion.

Americans advance in canoe-kayak

ATHENS, Greece — Former Olympic champion canoe racer Joe Jacoby and partner Matt Taylor easily clinched a semifinal berth in the whitewater slalom event. Single American kayakers Brett Hely and Scott Parsons also advanced to Friday's semifinals and finals.

Hungary knocks off U.S. in water polo

ATHENS, Greece — Defending Olympic champion Hungary handed the United States its first loss in water polo preliminaries, beating the Americans 7-5. Tamara Varga scored his second goal on extra-play to seal the match with 1:27 remaining. The Hungarians then blocked shots by Layne Beaubien and Wiggo to thwart a furious American comeback attempt in the last minute.

SPORTS



Racing Stripes:
In eyes of NASCAR, Victory Lane is a one-way street, Page 33



Amanda Beard gives the thumbs up after winning the gold medal in the women's 200-meter breaststroke at the Olympic Aquatic Centre on Thursday. Beard won in an Olympic-record time of 2 minutes, 23.37 seconds to capture her sixth career Olympic medal and first individual gold medal.

U.S. throws pool party

Peirsol, Phelps, Beard collect gold, set Olympic records

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Aaron Peirsol waved his arms in disbelief, then ran the race through his mind, trying to figure out what he did wrong.

The most dominant backstroke in the world had somehow made a mistake that cost him a sure gold medal.

On a night Americans dominated in the Olympic pool, Peirsol's disputed win in the 200-meter backstroke was the most memorable — and convoluted. First, he was disqualified for making an illegal turn. Then, his win was restored, just in time for him to have the gold draped around his neck.

Hours after he took a triumphant lap around the deck, swimming officials were still debating the whole mess.

Finally, the word came down: Peirsol's victory would stand.

No one disputed another victory by Michael Phelps, who secured his legacy as one of the greatest swimmers in Olympic history by winning his fourth gold medal Thursday.

For good measure, Amanda



U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps won the gold medal in the 200-meter individual medley Thursday, giving him four gold medals and six medals overall in the Athens Games. Phelps has a chance to become only the second athlete to win eight medals in an Olympics.

Beard captured the first individual gold of her illustrious career, in the 200-meter breaststroke. Only a victory by Australian Jodie Henry in the women's 100-meter freestyle prevented an American sweep.

Peirsol cruised to an easy win in his signature event — he hasn't lost in almost four years — but was shockingly DQed. About a half-hour later, the decision was overturned and he walked out to receive his second gold medal.



Aaron Peirsol of the U.S. swims in a 200-meter backstroke qualifying heat Thursday. Peirsol was disqualified in the final for what an official called an illegal turn but was awarded the gold medal after the U.S. filed a protest.

"Man, it was a rollercoaster," said the 21-year-old from Irvine, Calif., who earlier won the 100 backstroke.

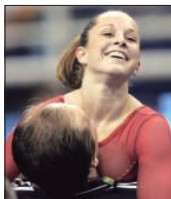
"I feel bad for everybody in that field. It was a weird call. I'm happy it was overturned, though."

SEE POOL ON PAGE 38



U.S. men try more team-oriented basketball, pull away from Australia in fourth

Page 38



U.S. teenager is the surprising new queen of gymnastics

Page 36

Medal count

Leaders after 86 medal events in the 2004 Olympics on Thursday, Aug. 19

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	14	11	10	35
China	14	9	6	29
Russia	3	8	10	21
Australia	7	5	7	19
Japan	9	4	2	15
Germany	4	2	7	13
Italy	4	5	3	12
France	4	3	4	11
South Korea	2	6	3	11
Netherlands	2	5	4	11

Governing body suspends 5 more weightlifters for failing drug tests

Page 39

A's Mulder first 16-game winner this season Page 34

